

## *Low- $x$ Physics at the LHeC*

**Armen Buniatyan**

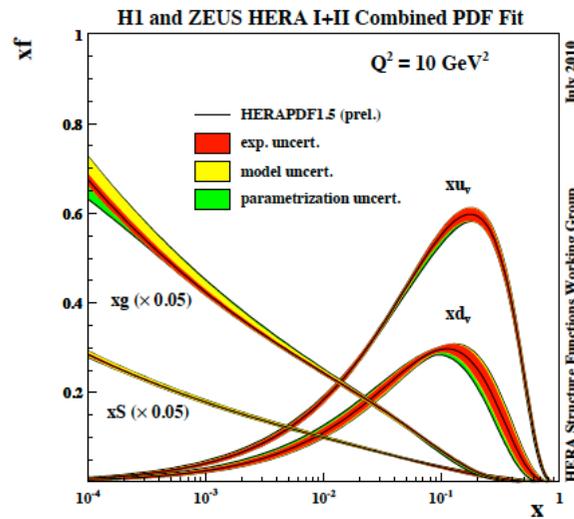
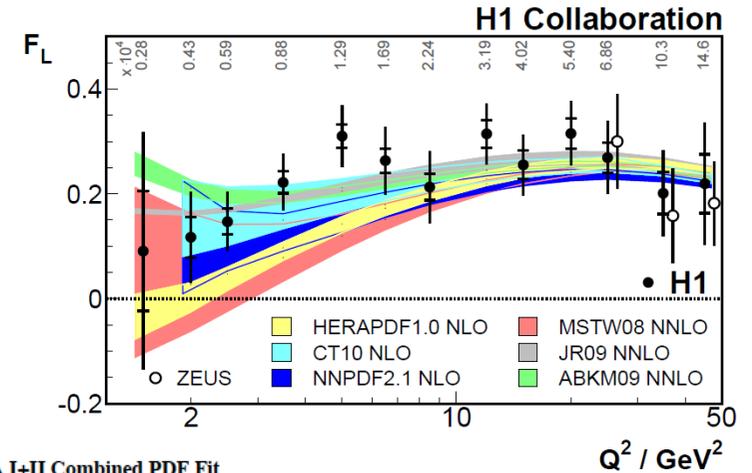
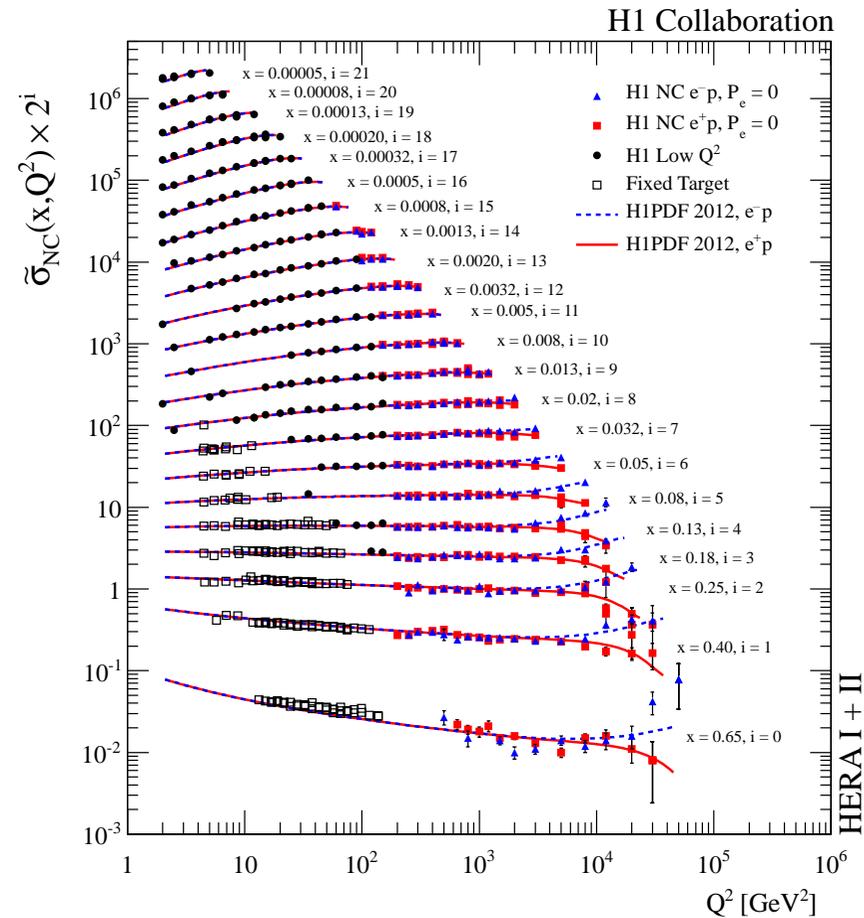
**Physikalisches Institut  
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg**

- **Inclusive measurements at low  $x$**
- **Diffraction**

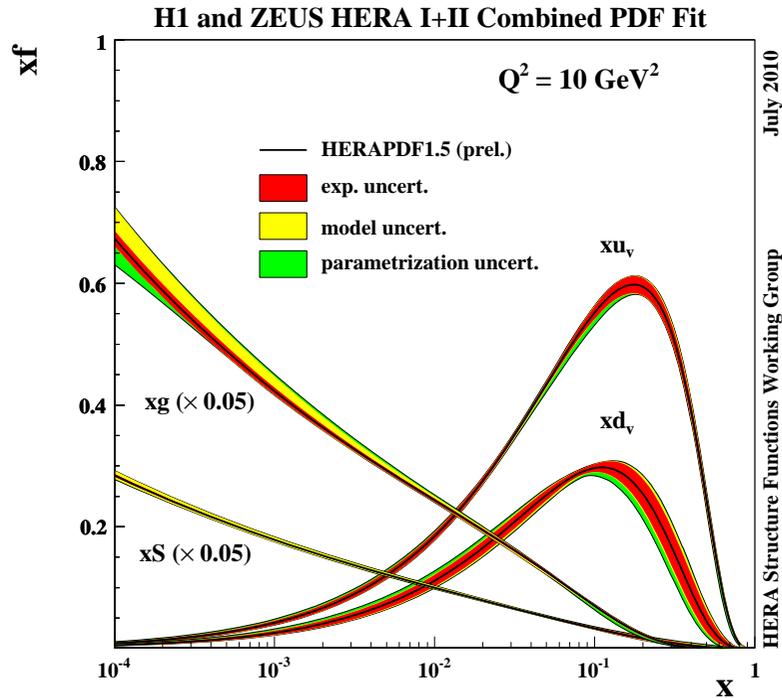


# Legacy from HERA (1992-2007)

- Proton structure functions in a wide  $x, Q^2$  range;  $xg(x) \propto 1/x^\lambda, \lambda > 0$ ; PDFs
- Large contribution of diffractive processes  $\sigma_{\text{diff}}/\sigma_{\text{tot}} \sim 10\%$
- Precision tests of QCD with jets, heavy flavours,...
- But: no  $eA/eD$ , kinematical reach at small  $x$ , luminosity at high  $x$  /for searches,



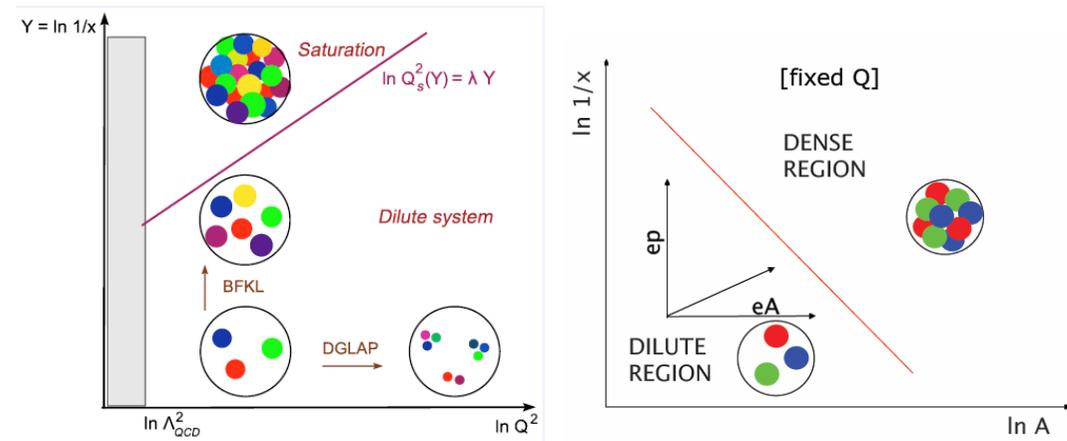
# Parton densities at low-x



- Parton densities exhibit a strong rise towards low  $x$  and fixed  $Q^2$ 
  - QCD radiation of partons leads to a large number of gluons (each parton evolves independently- linear evolution  $\Delta[xg] \propto xg$ )
  - eventually will violate **unitarity**
- This independent evolution breaks at high densities (low  $x$ / high  $A$ ), non-linear evolution must become relevant and parton densities must saturate
  - recombination ( $gg \rightarrow g$ ) / **saturation**

**LHeC** can access very low  $x$ , study

- associated microscopic dynamics
- transition between perturbative and non-perturbative dynamics



# LHeC Conceptual Design Report

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**A Large Hadron Electron Collider at CERN**  
Report on the Physics and Design Concepts for  
Machine and Detector  
LHeC Study Group



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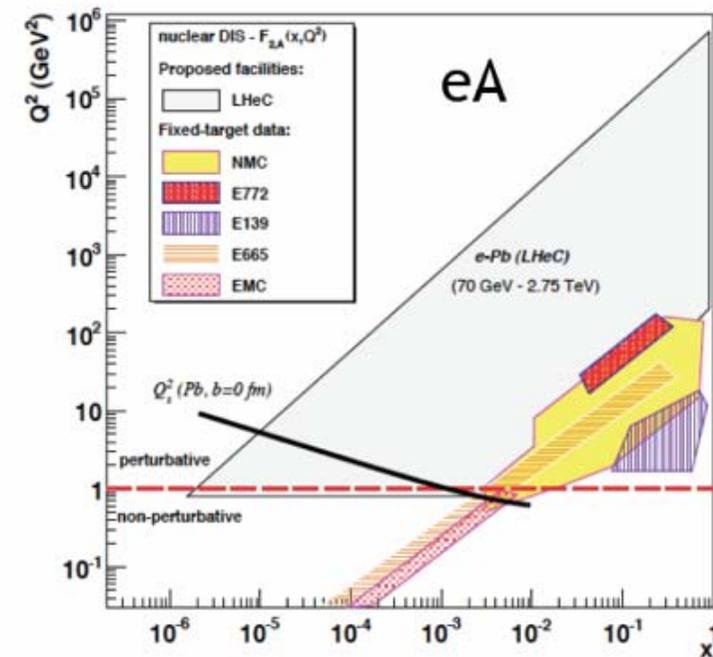
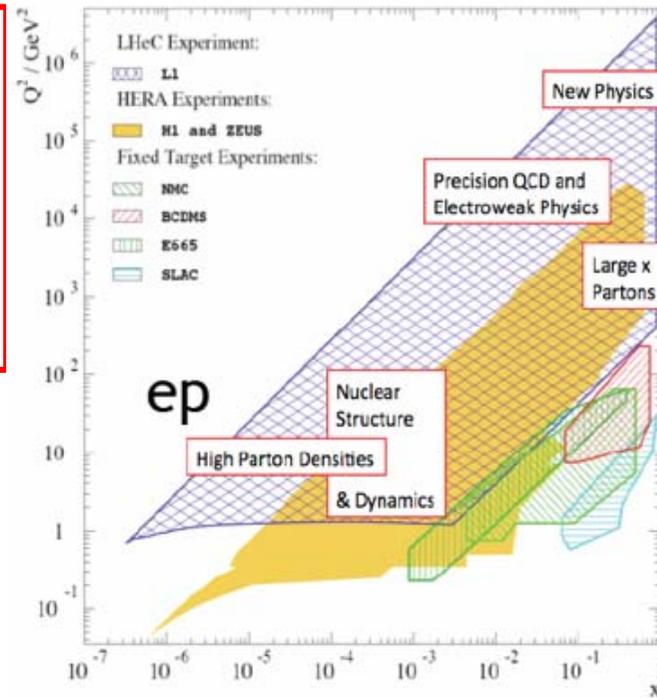
**LHeC CDR**

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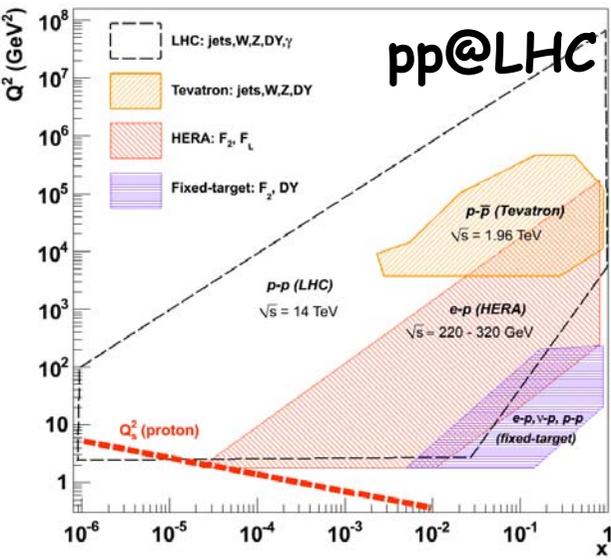
arXiv:2306.2913, 1211.4831, 1211.5102  
<http://cern.ch/lhec>

**ep/eA collisions;**  
 $E_e = 60 \div 140 \text{ GeV}$   
 $E_p = 7 \text{ TeV}$   
 $E_A = 2.75 \text{ TeV/nucl.}$   
 $\sqrt{s} \sim 1 \div 2 \text{ TeV}$



- increase of kinematic range at low  $x$ :  $ep$  -  $\times 20$ ;  $eA$  -  $\sim 4$  orders of magnitude  
 → significant improvement of existing constraints on parton densities
- Establish the existence of physics beyond DGLAP
- Substructure/parton dynamics inside nuclei with implications on QGP search.
- Precision QCD/EW physics
- High-mass frontier (leptoquarks, excited fermions, contact interactions).
- Access ( $ep$  and  $eA$ ) to a qualitatively novel regime of matter predicted by QCD

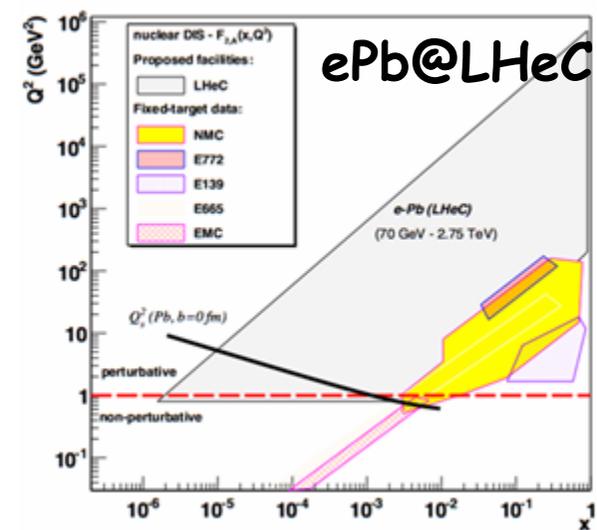
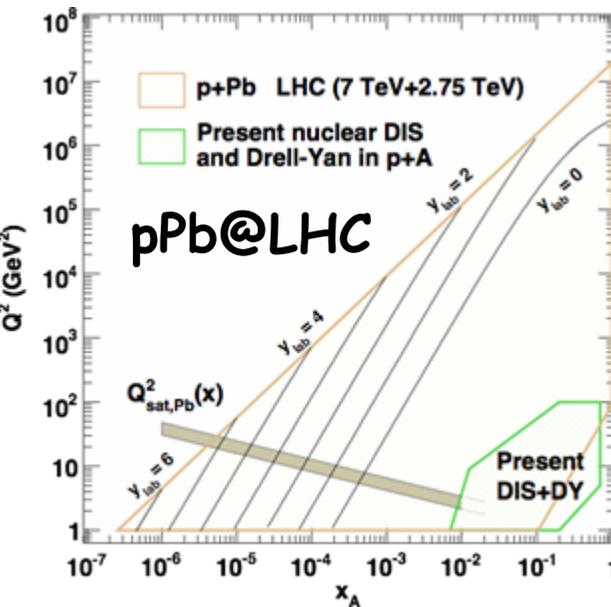
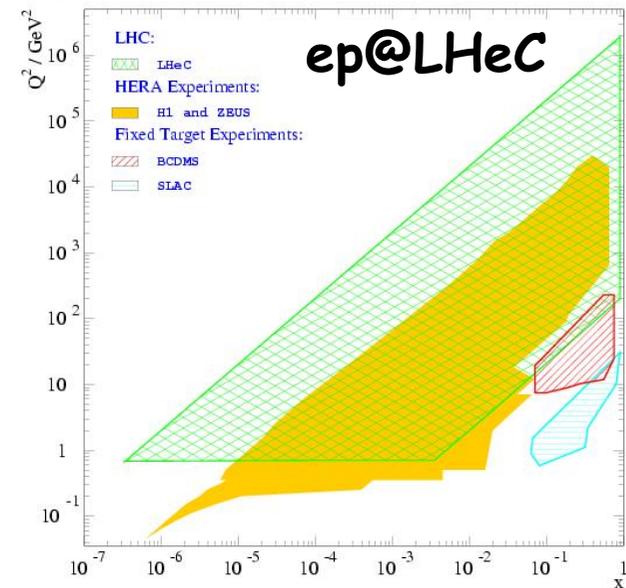
# LHeC vs LHC



• The LHeC will explore a region overlapping with the LHC

→ in a cleaner experimental setup

→ on firmer theoretical ground



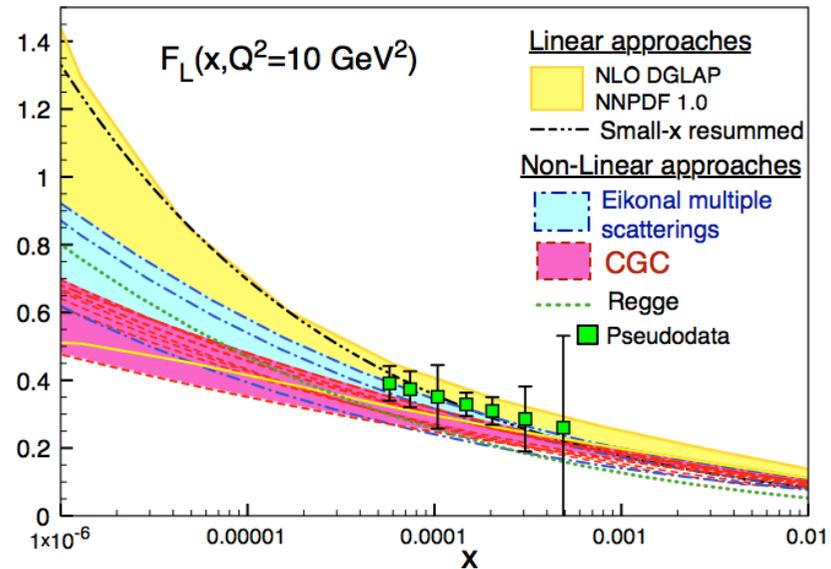
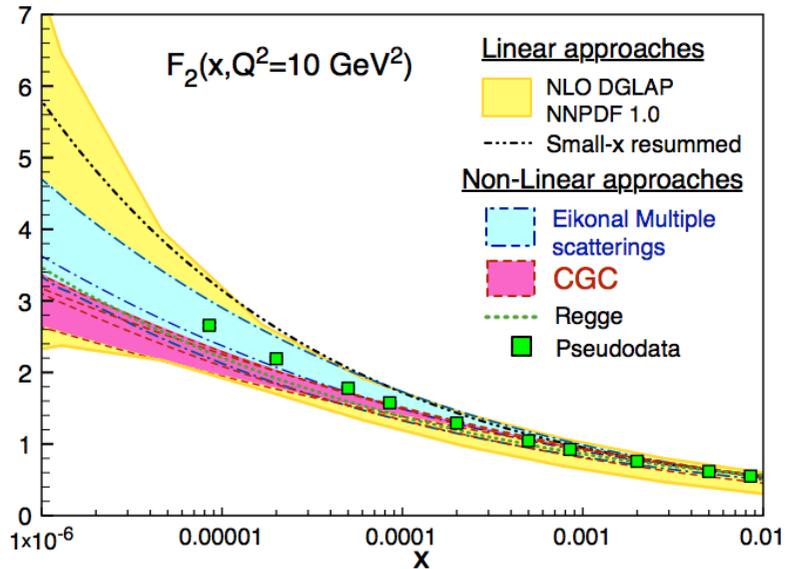
# Inclusive measurements: comparison with models

different pQCD-based approaches to describe evolution at low- $x$

→ DGLAP evolution (fixed order perturbation theory).

→ Resummation schemes: BFKL, CCFM, ABF, CCSS

→ Saturation (CGC, dipole models)



• Models based on linear evolution approaches

- extrapolation from the NLO DGLAP fit (NNPDF) and the results from a combined DGLAP/BFKL approach, which includes resummation of small- $x$  effects

• Models which include non-linear small- $x$  dynamics

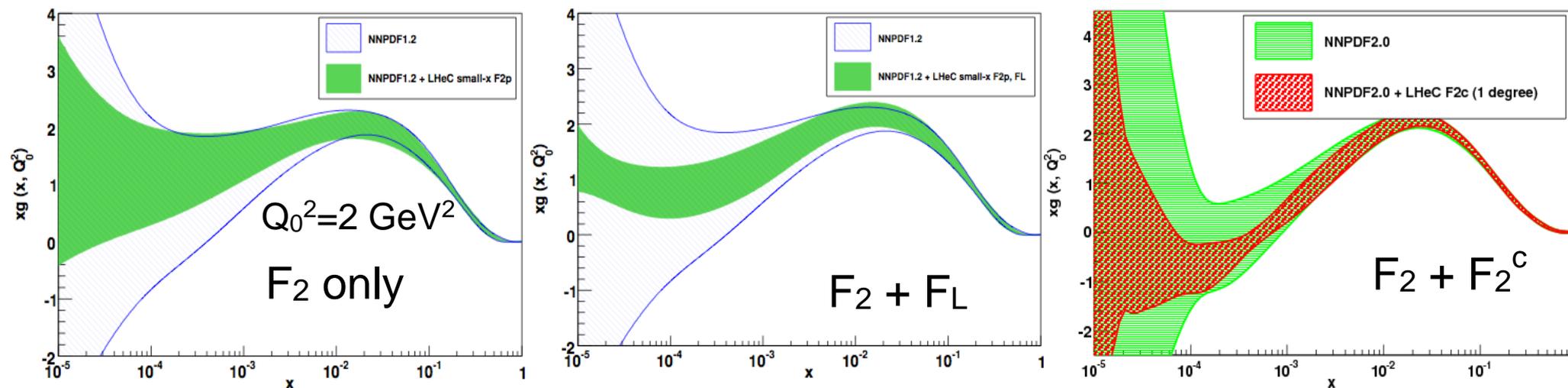
- dipole models, based on eikonalisation of multiple scatterings with DGLAP evolution and CGC

**LHeC  $F_2$  and  $F_L$  data can discriminate between models**

# Constraining Proton PDFs at small $x$

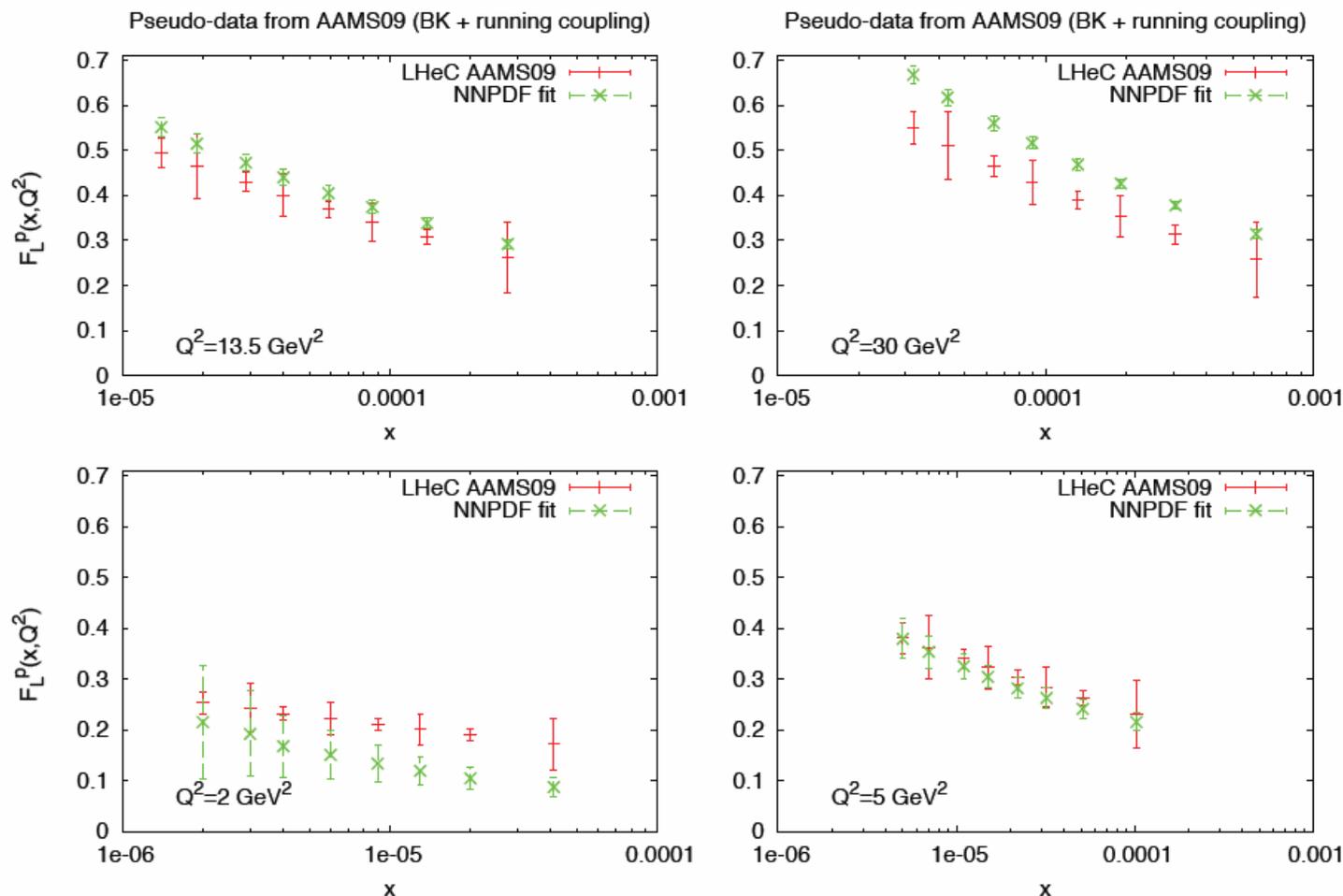
- uncertainties in predictions due to poorly known parton densities at small  $x$
- **LHeC can substantially reduce the uncertainties in global fits** (in particular  $F_L$  and heavy flavours useful)

$xg(x)$  in NNPDF DGLAP fit with LHeC pseudodata (which include gluon saturation effects: AAMS09, FS04)

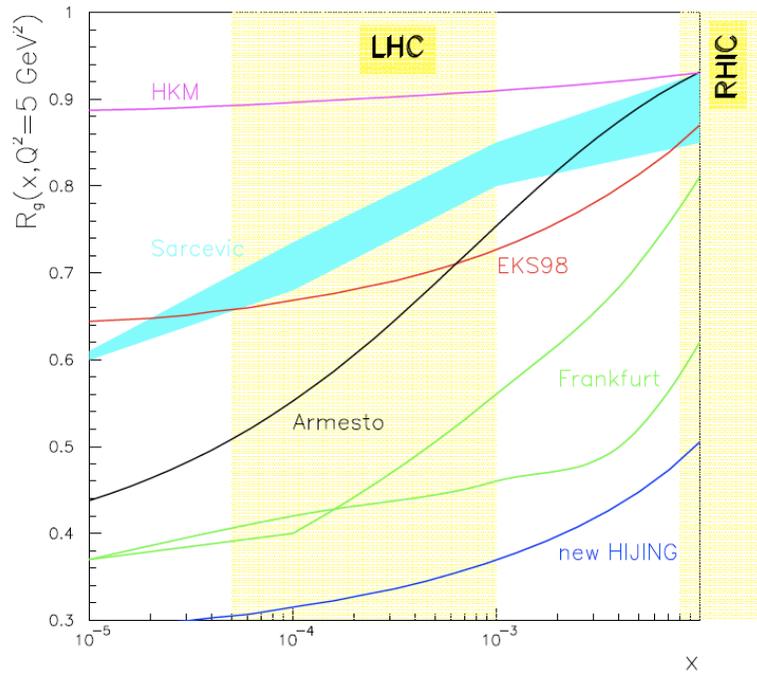


# $F_L$ measurements- sensitivity to effects beyond DGLAP

Combined  $F_2$  and  $F_L$  measurement is very sensitive probe of novel small- $x$  QCD dynamics  
NLO DGLAP cannot simultaneously accommodate LHeC  $F_2$  and  $F_L$  data if saturation effects included



# Nuclear Parton Densities (nPDFs) at small x



(ratios of gluon distribution functions at  $Q^2=5 \text{ GeV}^2$ )

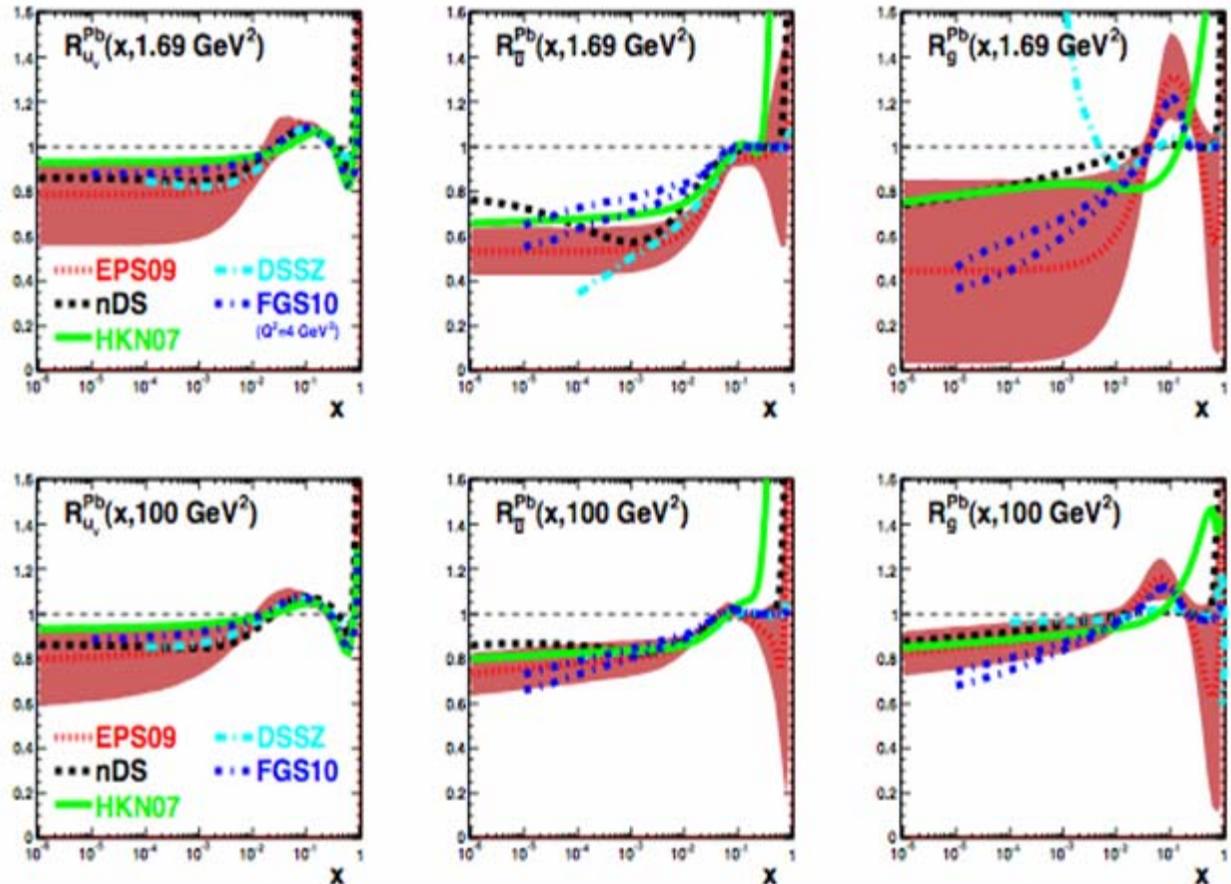
Yellow Report on Hard Probes, 2004

Large uncertainties in NLO DGLAP analyses at small scales and x

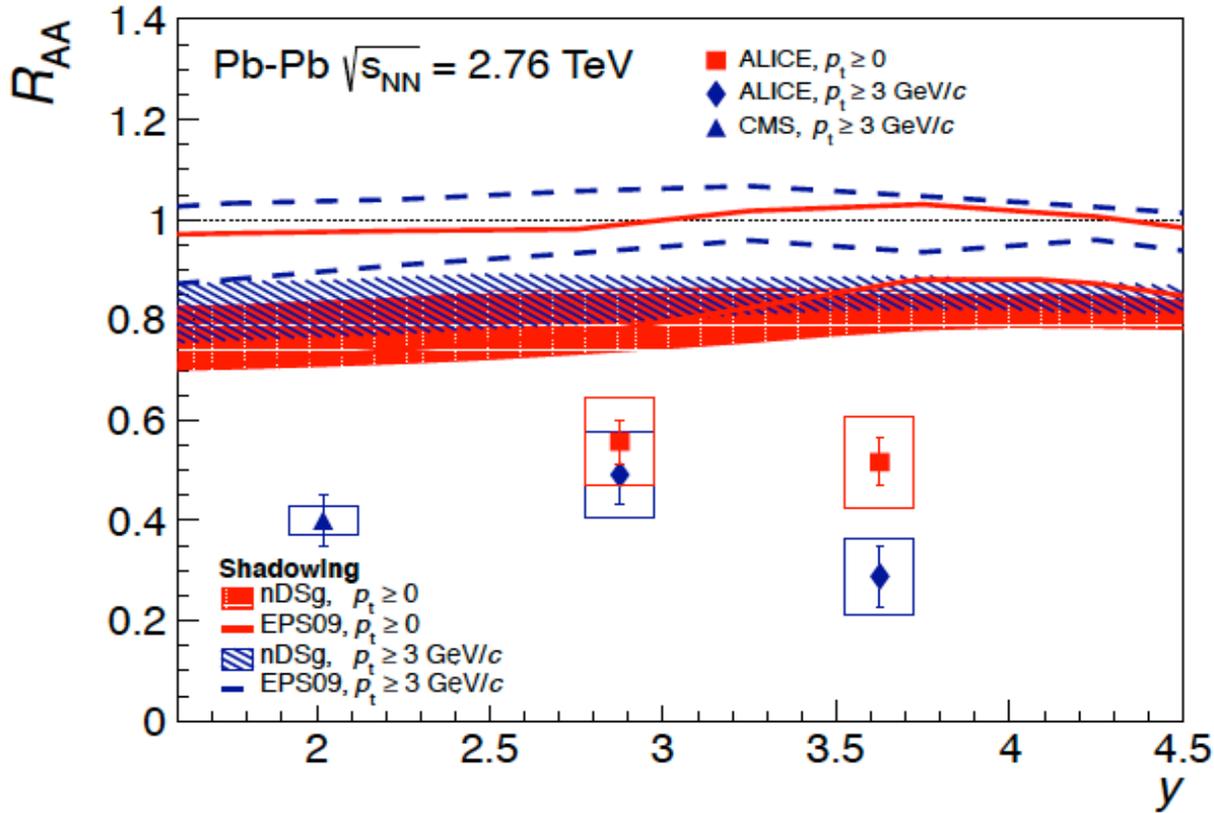
$$R = \frac{f_{i/A}}{A f_{i/p}}$$

ratio of parton densities in bound proton in Pb to those in free proton

Lack of data  $\rightarrow$  models give very different results for the nuclear glue at small scales and x



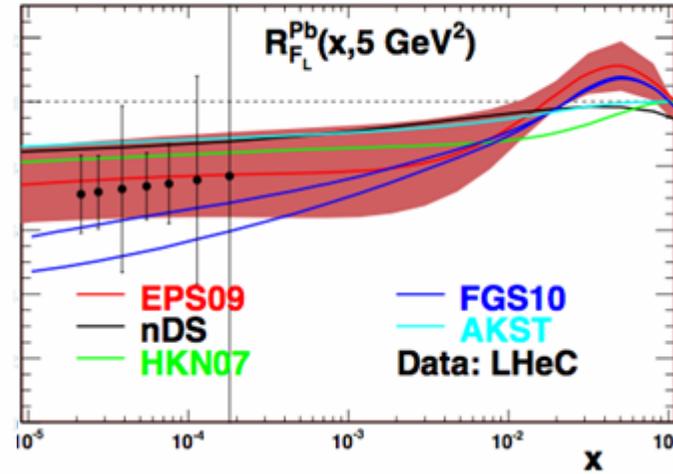
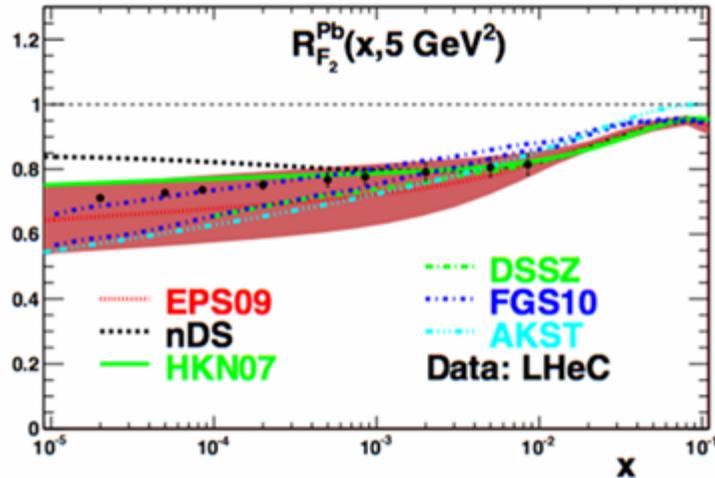
(R - nuclear modification factor)



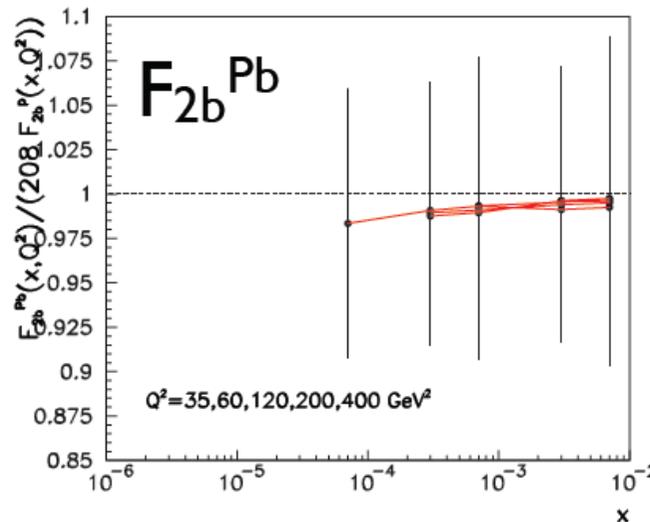
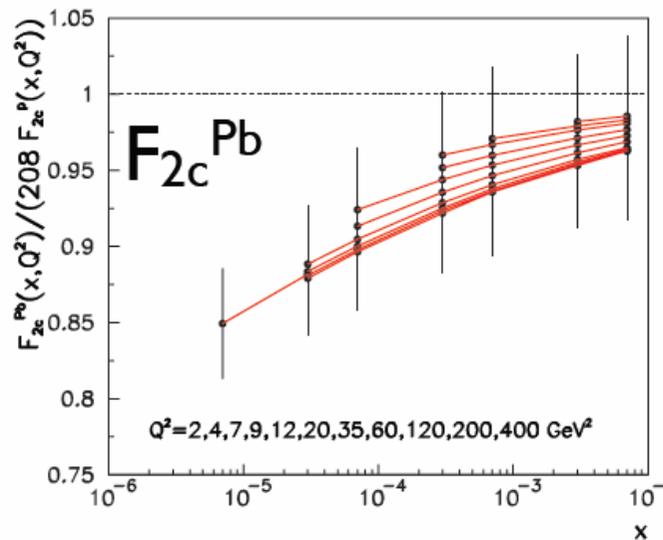
*Inclusive  $J/\psi$ , 1202.1383*

# eA at LHeC: impact on nPDFs

Good precision can be obtained for  $F_2$  and  $F_L$  at small  $x$

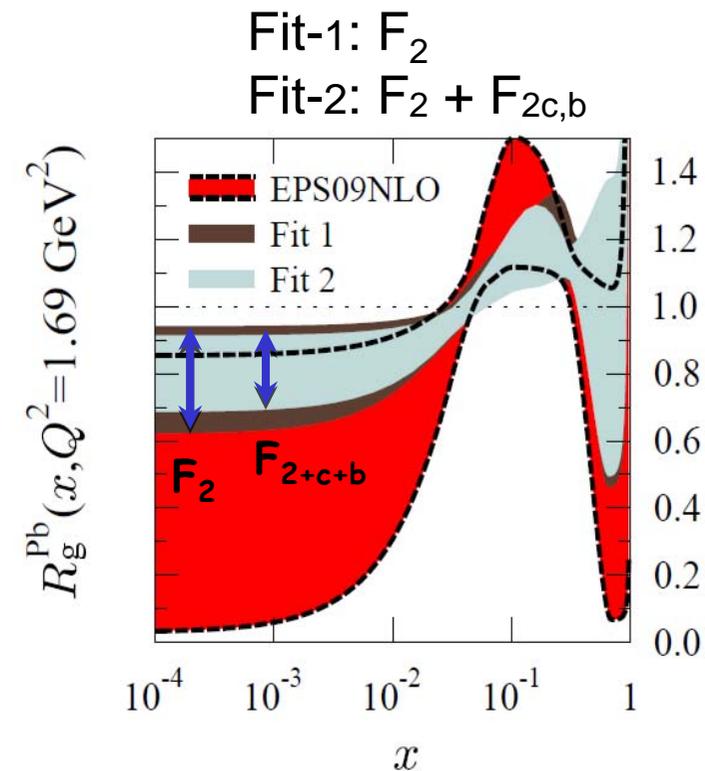
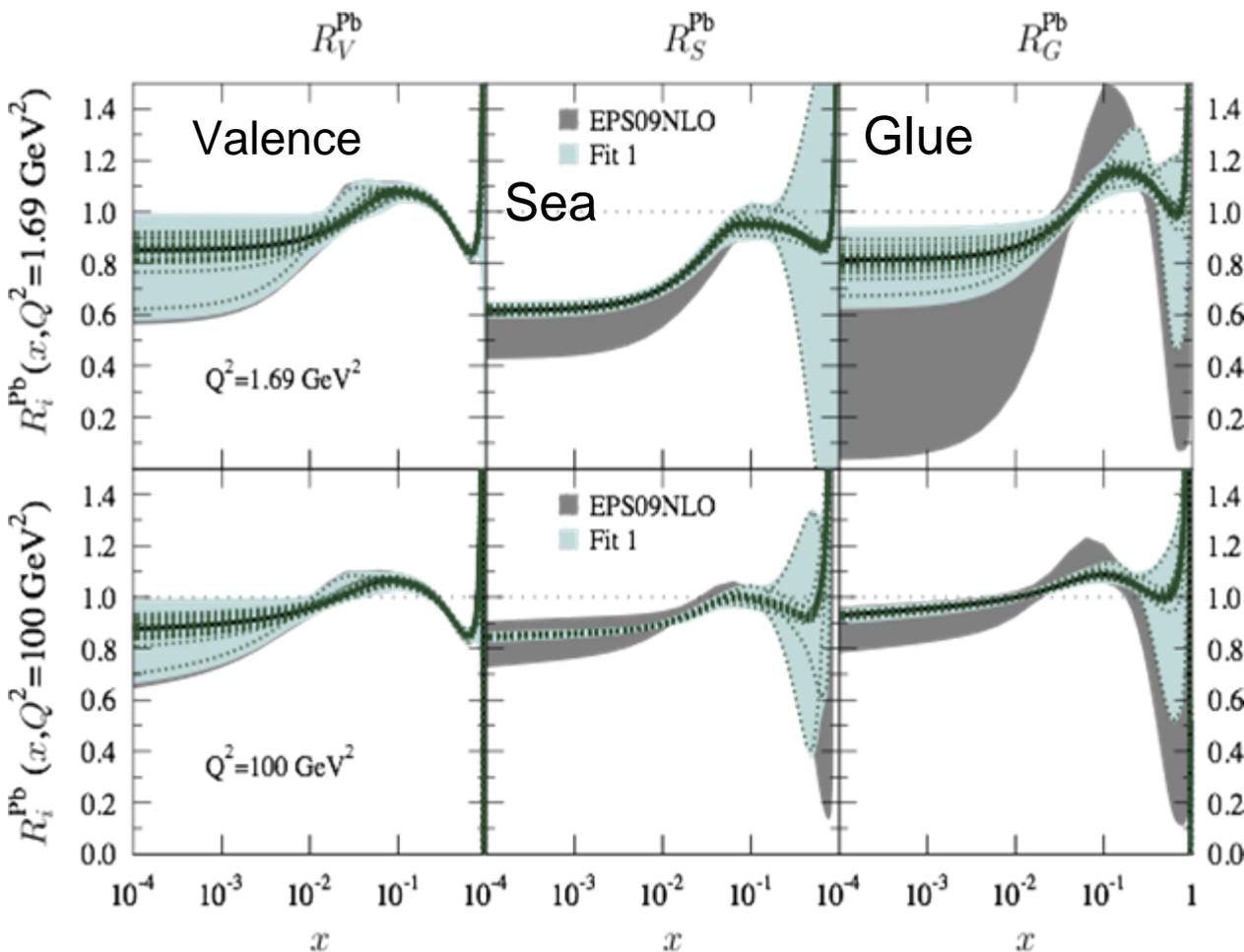


LHeC pseudodata simulation with Glauberized 5-flavour GBW model (N.Armeστο)



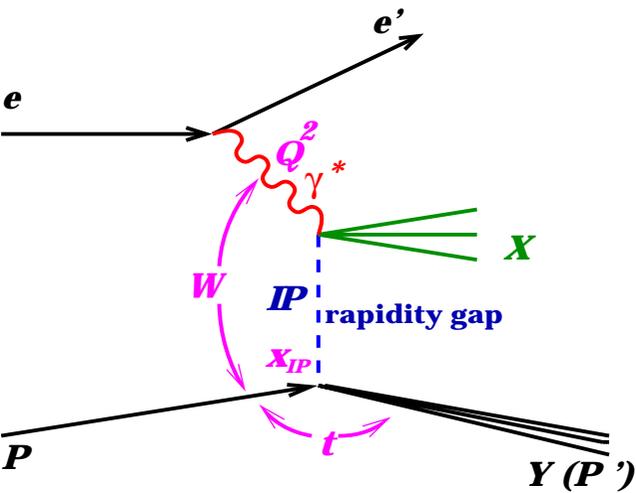
# eA at LHeC: impact on nPDFs

$F_2$  data substantially reduce the uncertainties on nPDFs in DGLAP analysis;  
 Additional constraints from charm, beauty and  $F_L$



# Diffraction in ep collisions

One of the first HERA surprises: ~10% of DIS events have no activity in proton direction → diffractive interactions



$$Q^2 = -q^2$$

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2q \cdot p}$$

$$W^2 = (p + q)^2$$

photon virtuality

Bjorken scaling variable

$\gamma^* p$  CM energy squared

$$t = (p - p_Y)^2$$

$$x_P = \frac{q \cdot (p - Y)}{q \cdot p}$$

4-momentum transfer squared

fraction of  $p$  momentum transferred to  $P$  ( $x_P \simeq 1 - E_Y/E_p$ )

$$\beta = \frac{Q^2}{2q \cdot (p - Y)}$$

fraction of  $P$  momentum carried by struck quark ( $x_P \beta = x$ )

$$M_X$$

Inv. mass of system  $X$

- t-channel exchange of vacuum quantum numbers
- proton survives the collision intact or dissociates to low mass state,  $M_Y \sim O(m_p)$
- large rapidity gap
- small  $t$  (four-momentum transfer), small  $x_{IP}$  (fraction of proton momentum);  $M_X \ll W$

In diffractive DIS,  $\gamma^* p \rightarrow XY$ , virtual photon resolves structure of colour singlet exchange  
Understanding diffraction in terms of partons

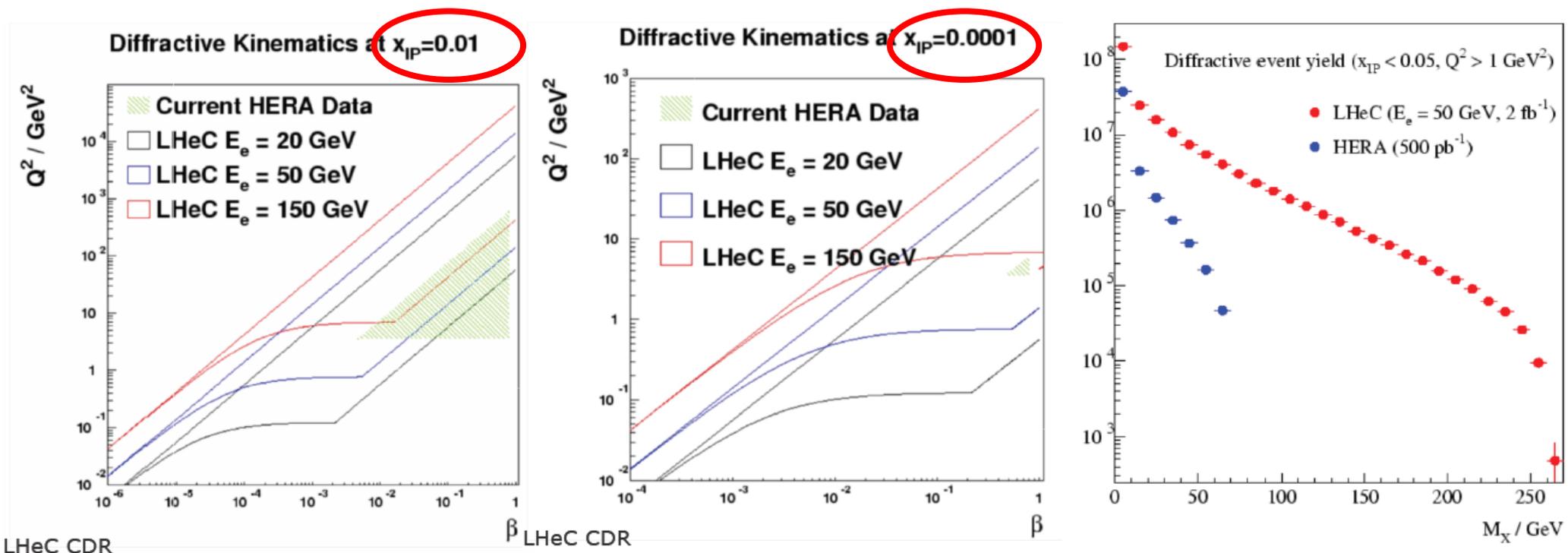
- essential for the predictions of diffractive cross sections (e.g. diffractive Higgs)
- related to non-linear evolution (saturation), underlying event (gap survival), confinement

# Diffraction at LHeC

Inclusive and exclusive diffraction can be studied at LHeC over a hugely expanded kinematical range, also using dedicated forward detectors

Compared to HERA significant extension of kinematic region of diffraction:

- access to  $M_x$  up to 250 GeV
- test collinear and proton vertex factorisation in significantly increased phase space domain
- diffractive charged current
- new diffractive channels: beauty, W/Z, new/exotic states (e.g. 1-- odderon) ...



LHeC CDR

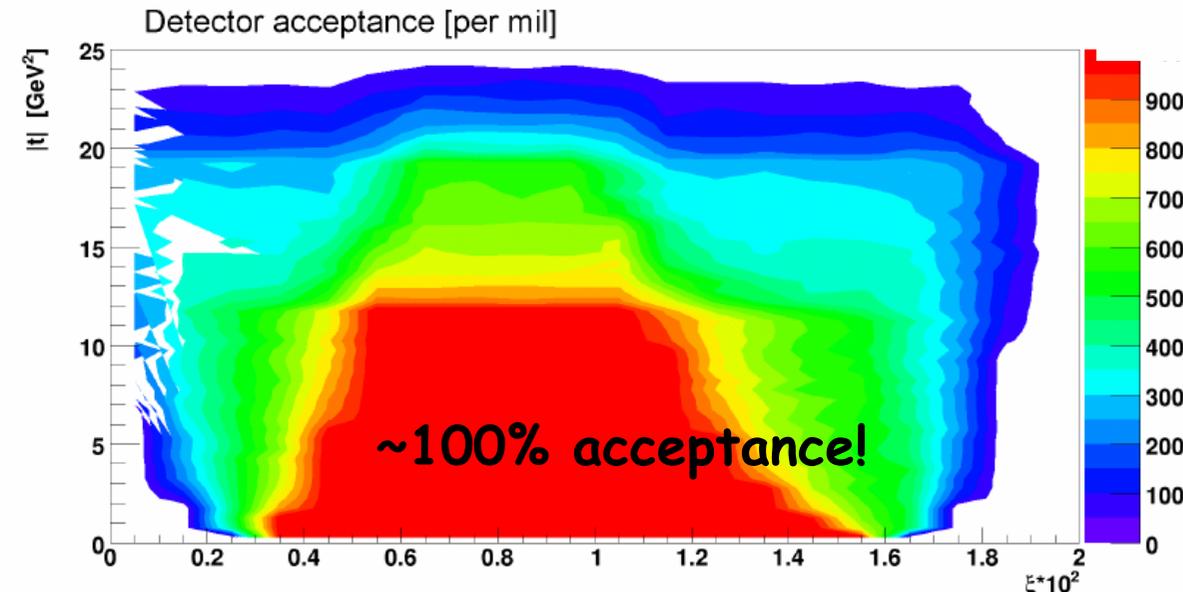
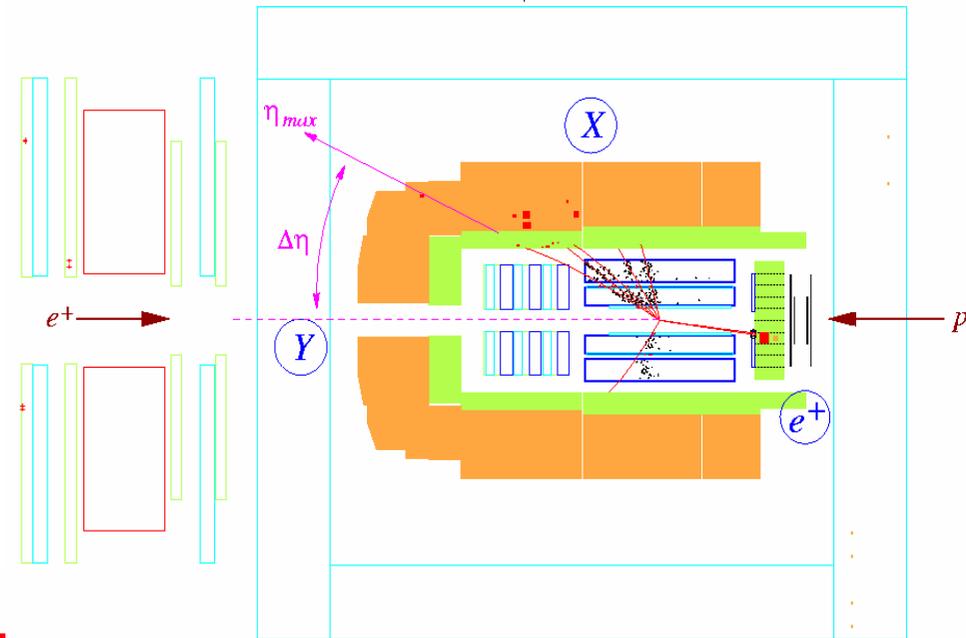
LHeC CDR

$M_x / \text{GeV}$

# Diffraction event selection ( $ep \rightarrow e'p'X$ )

## ➤ 'Large Rapidity Gap' method (LRG)

- restricted to low  $x_{IP}$
- exploit correlation between  $x_{IP}$  and  $\eta_{max}$
- $\eta_{max} < 5$  corresponds to  $x_{IP} \sim 0.001$  (require forward instrumentation down to  $1^\circ$ )
- $t$  is not measured
- may contain some p-diss. background
- syst. uncertainties due to missing proton



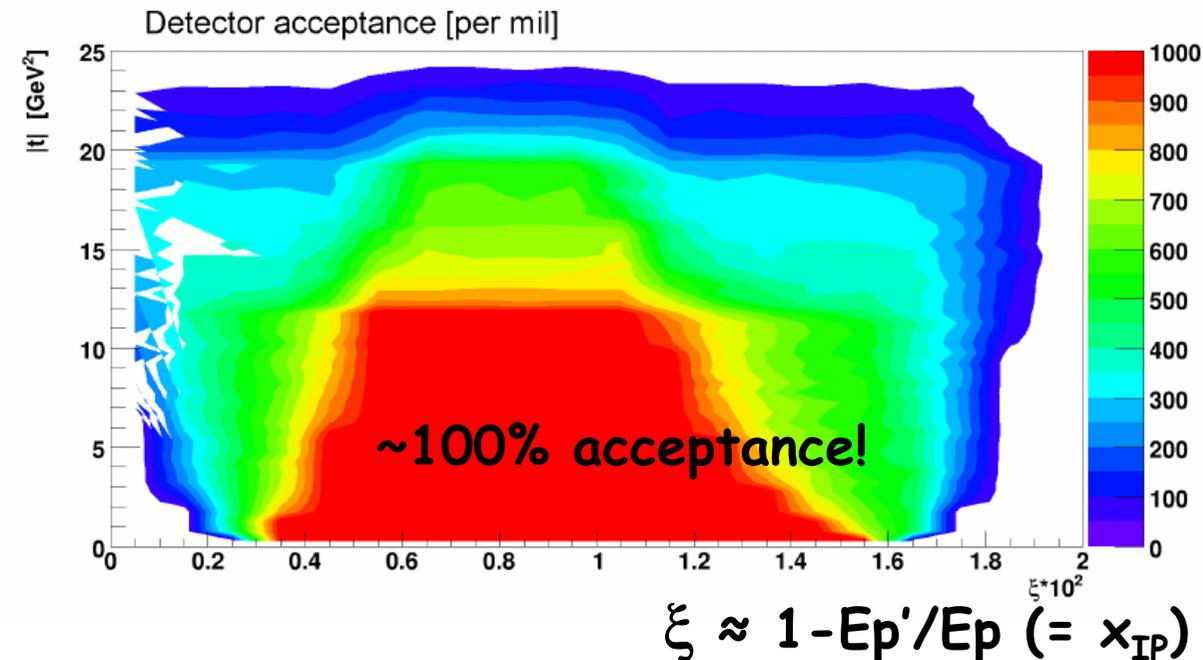
## ➤ 'Leading proton' measurements scattered proton detected in 'Roman Pots' (420m)

- $t$  and  $x_{IP}$  measurement
- larger  $x_{IP}$  accessible
- free of p-diss. background
- overlap region with LRG method for cross-check

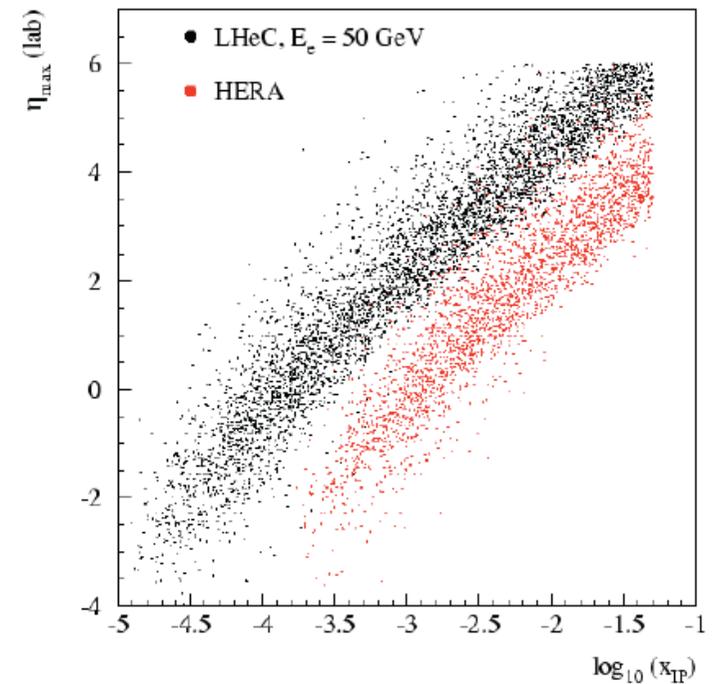
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## $\eta_{max}$ from LRG selection ...



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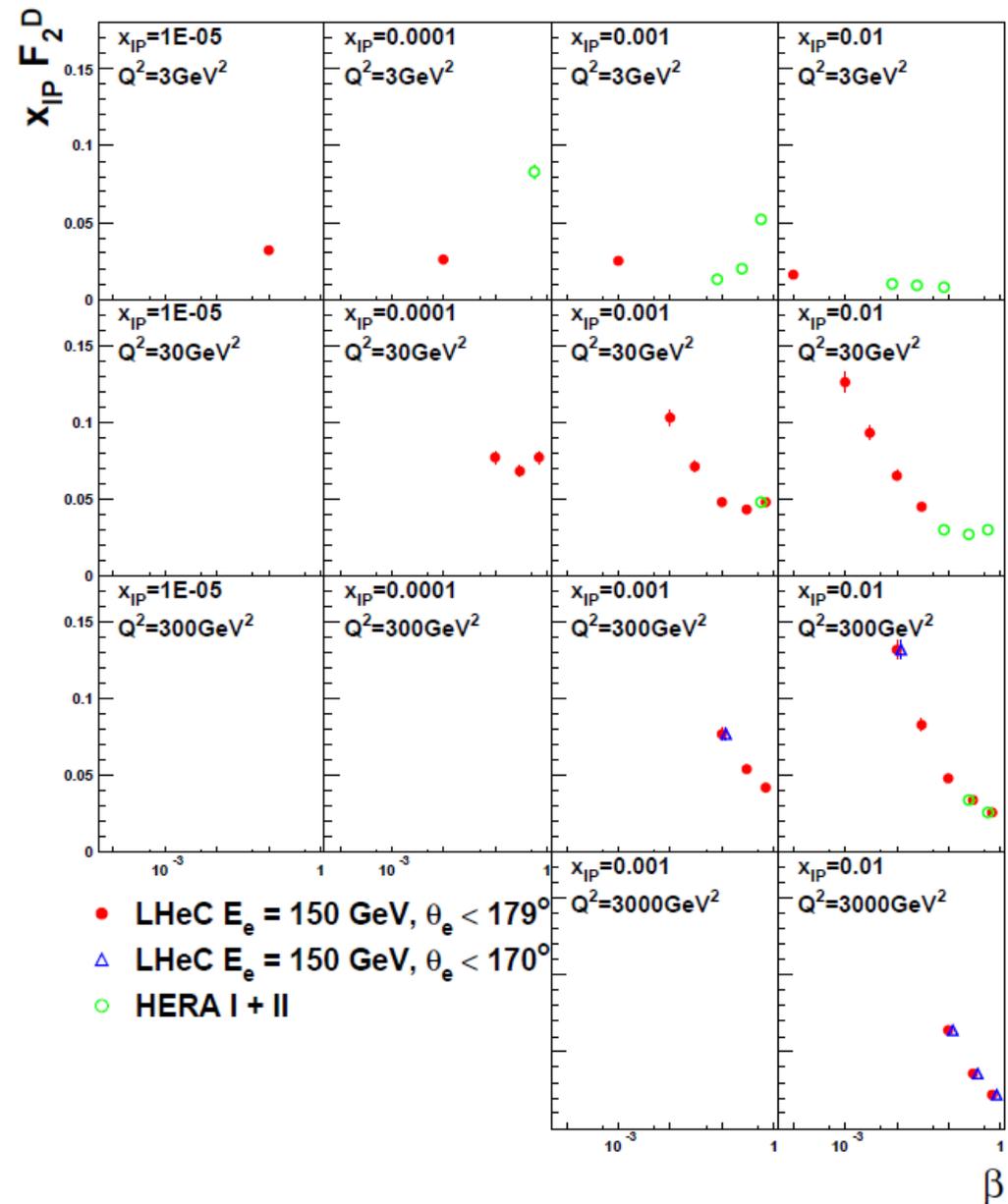
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# Diffractive $F_2^D$ measurements

## LHeC pseudodata

- $E_e = 150 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $L = 2 \text{ fb}^{-1}$
- Extrapolation from "H1 fit B"

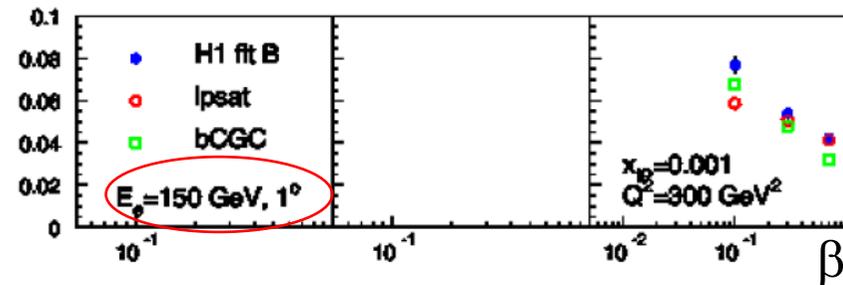
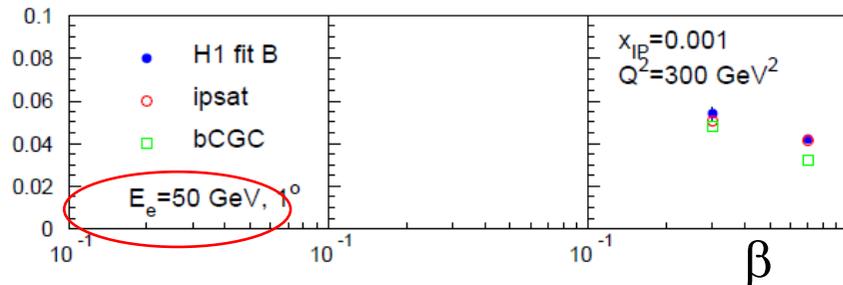
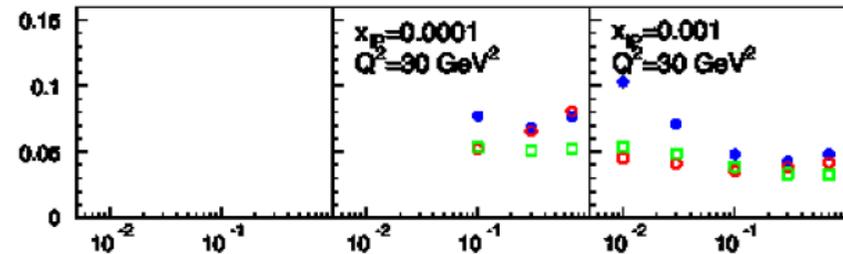
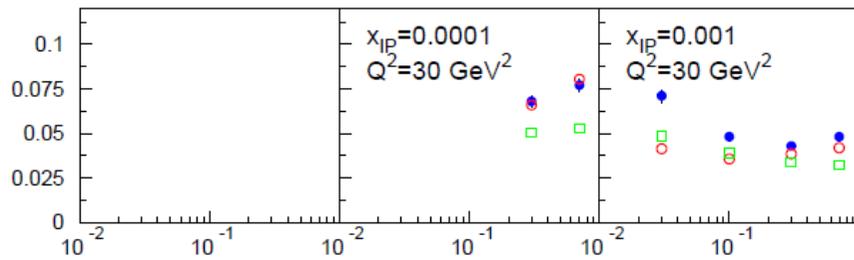
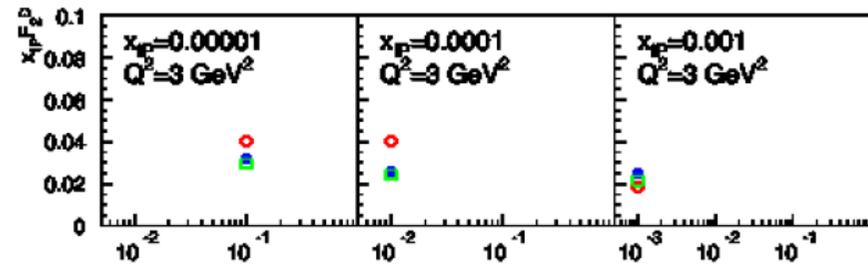
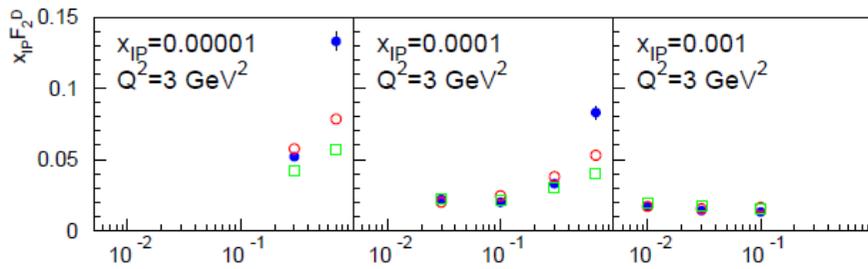
→ Large extension of HERA measurements!



# Diffractive DIS and non-linear dynamics

Dipole models show differences w.r.t. linear-based extrapolations from HERA DPDF's and among each other: possibility to check saturation and its realization

- Diffractive DIS sensitive to power corrections of order  $Q^2_{sat} / Q^2$
- LHeC gives access to semi-hard regime  $Q^2 < 10 \text{ GeV}^2$  and low  $x$ ; can distinguish between a range of models with and without saturation effects

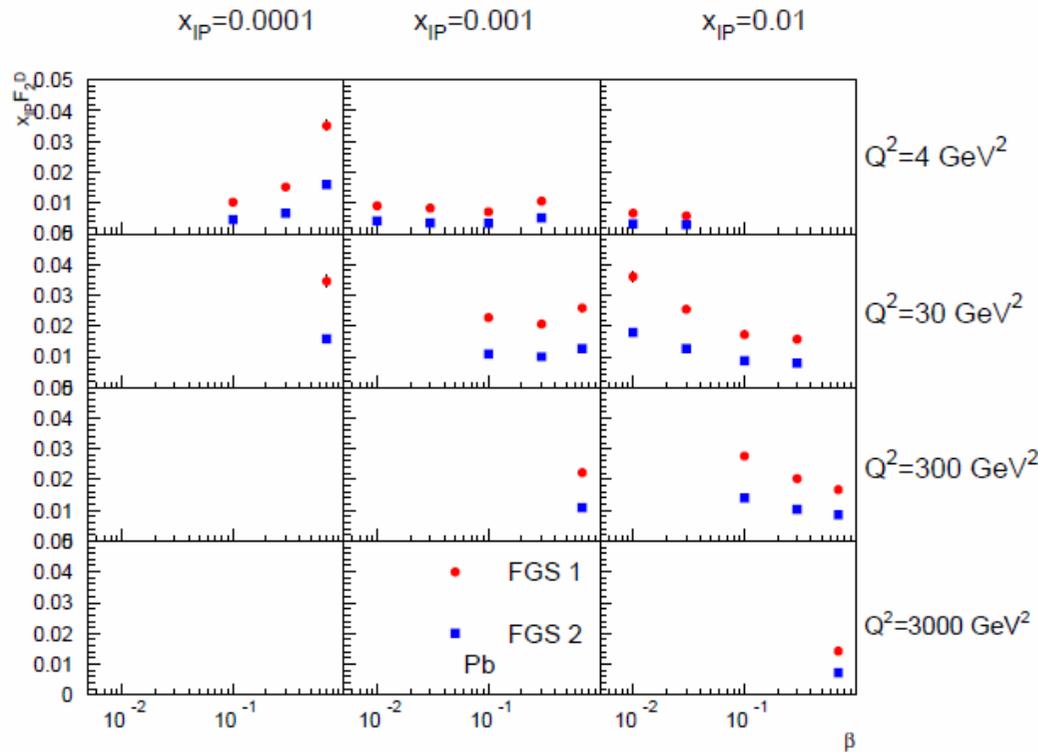


# Diffractive DIS on nuclear targets

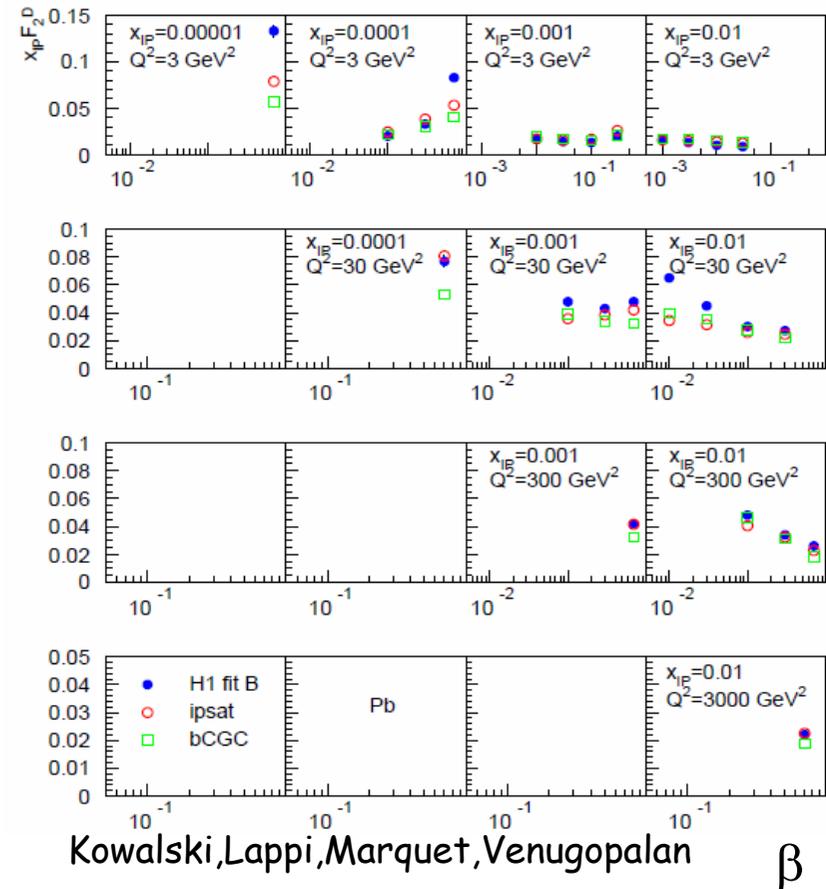
to be studied in eA at LHeC:

- if collinear factorisation (proved for proton) holds for nuclei
- Hadron vertex factorisation
- **Diffraction is linked to nuclear shadowing: search for new effects**

large differences between predictions for nuclear coherent diffraction



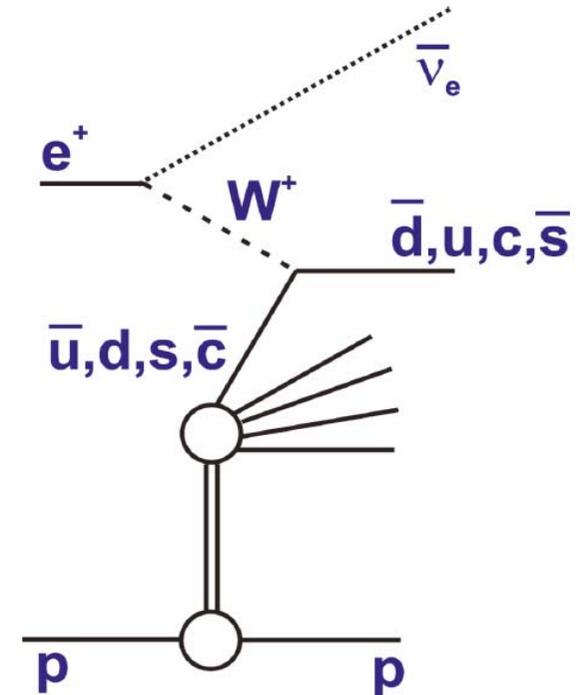
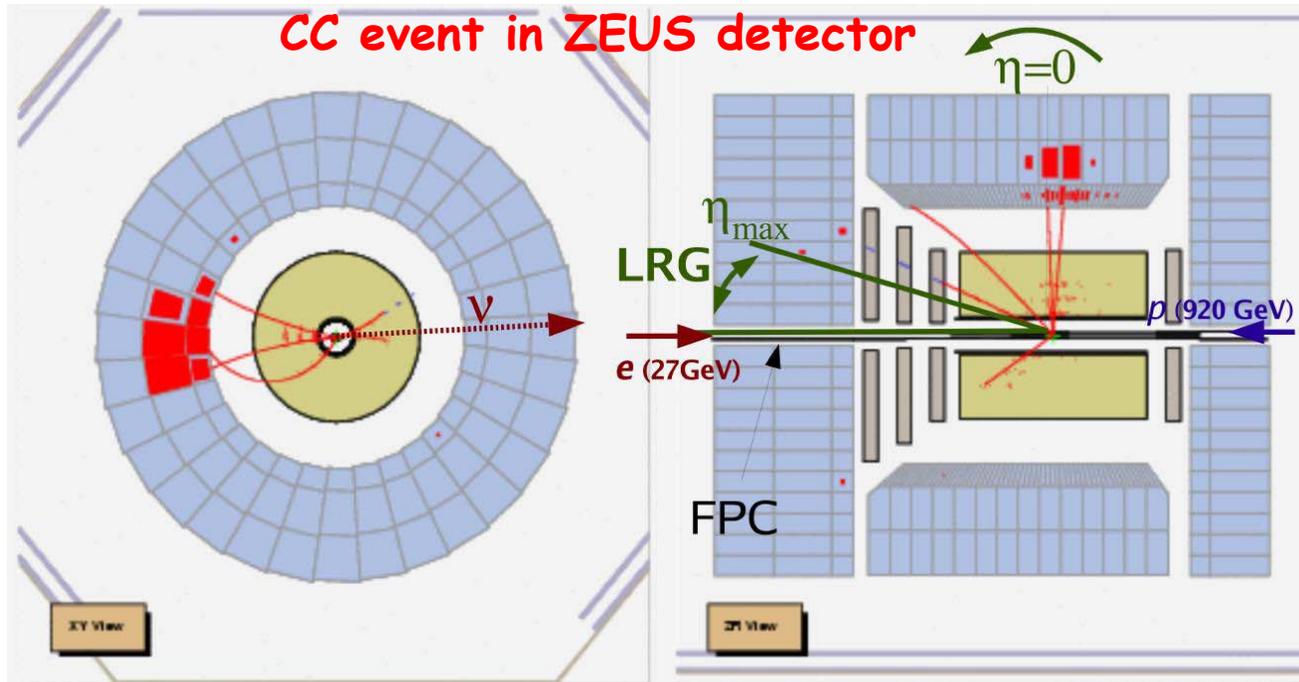
Frankfurt, Guzey, Strikman



Kowalski, Lappi, Marquet, Venugopalan  $\beta$

# Charged Current in Diffraction

Sensitive to flavour decomposition of quark singlet  
(unconstrained by NC data)



# Charged Current in Diffraction

**H1:**  $\sigma^{CC,diff} = 0.39 \pm 0.12(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.07(\text{sys.}) \text{ pb}$

**ZEUS:**  $\sigma^{CC,diff} = 0.49 \pm 0.20(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.13(\text{sys.}) \text{ pb}$

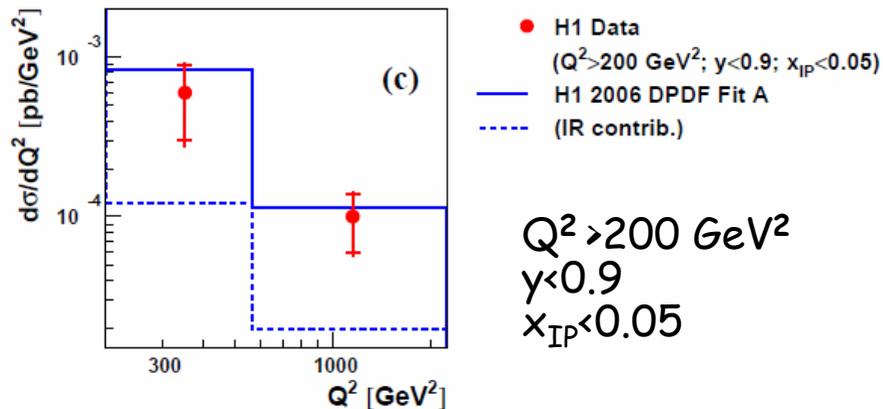
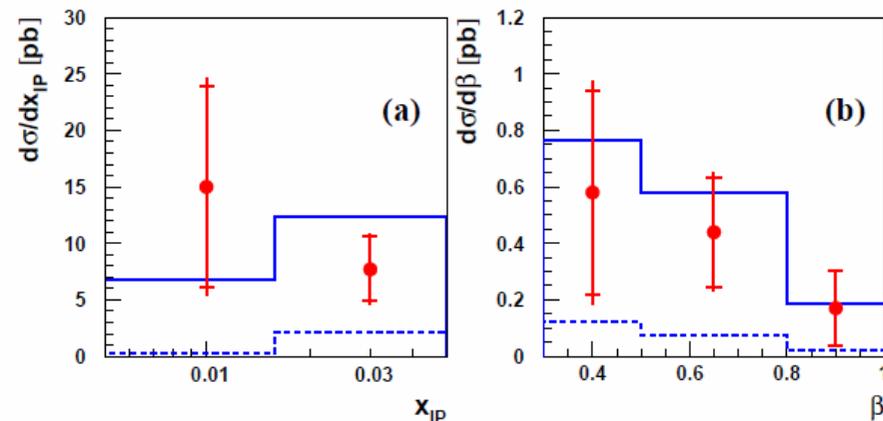
## Predictions for LHEC (RAPGAP MC)

(Markéta Jansová, Bachelor work, Prague 2013)

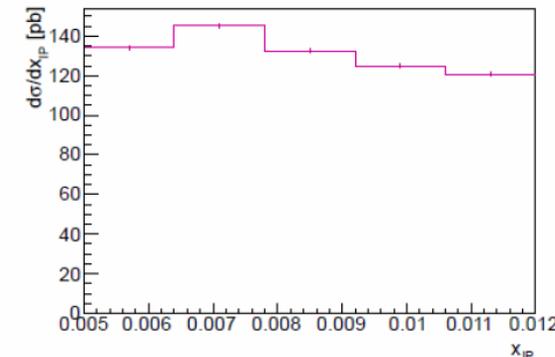
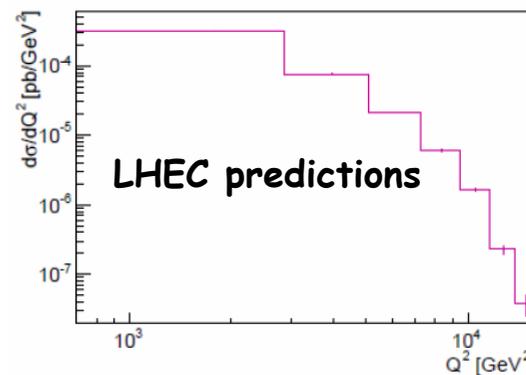
$E_p = 7000 \text{ GeV}, E_e = 60 \text{ GeV}$

$Q^2 > 700 \text{ GeV}^2, 0.2 < y < 0.9$   
 $0.005 < x_{IP} < 0.012$

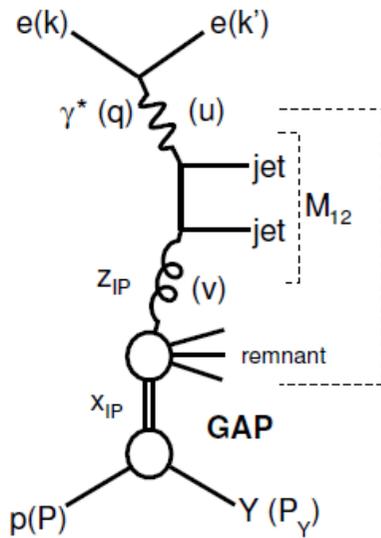
$\sigma^{CC,diff}(MC) = 923 \text{ fb}$   
 $\sim 80,000 \text{ events } (100 \text{ fb}^{-1})$



## Sufficient statistics for detailed studies



# Diffraction production in DIS

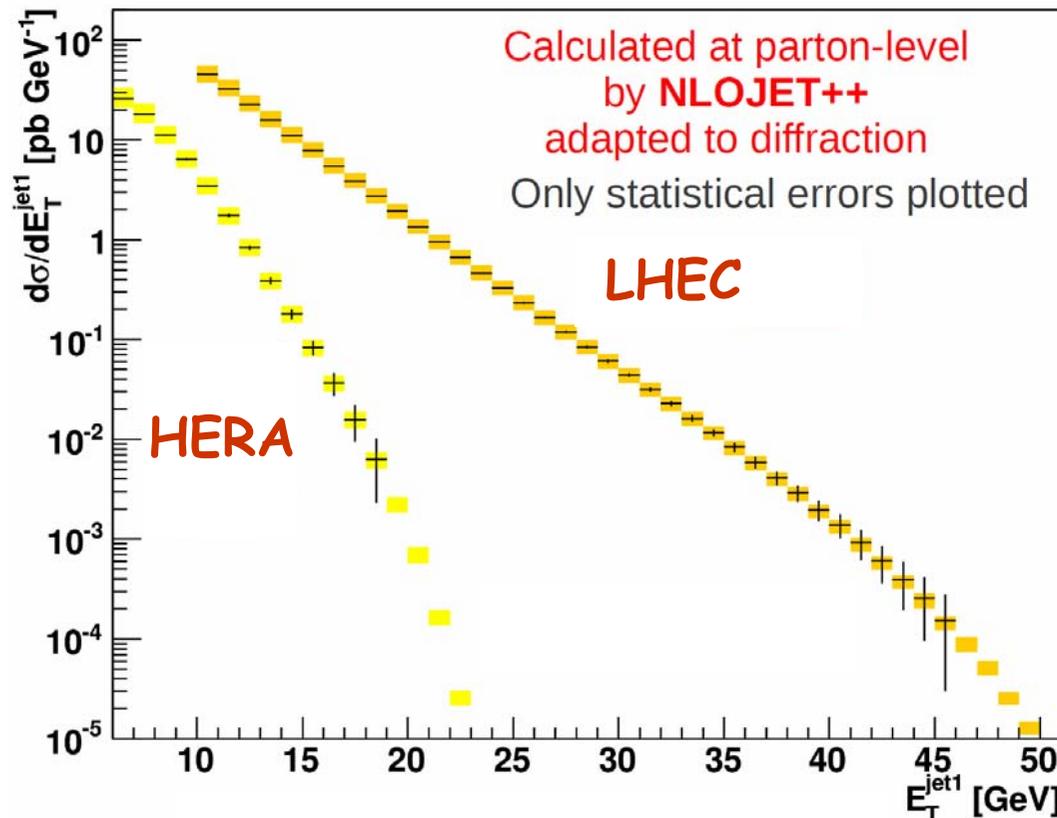


• **Diffraction dijet and open heavy flavour production offer large possibilities for:**

→ Checking factorization in hard diffraction.

→ Constraining DPDFs.

• **LHeC** → Large yields up to large  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$



920 + 27.5 HERA ( $400 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ )

$$Q^2 > 4 \text{ GeV}^2 \wedge 0.1 < y < 0.7$$

$$x_{IP} < 0.03 \wedge |t| < 1 \text{ GeV}^2$$

$$M_Y < 1.6 \text{ GeV}$$

$$E_T^{\text{jet1}} > 6 \text{ GeV}$$

$$E_T^{\text{jet2}} > 4 \text{ GeV}$$

$$-1 < \eta^{\text{jets}} < 2$$

7000 + 60 LHeC ( $10 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )

$$Q^2 > 2 \text{ GeV}^2 \wedge 0.1 < y < 0.7$$

$$x_{IP} < 0.01 \wedge |t| < 1 \text{ GeV}^2$$

$$M_Y < 1.6 \text{ GeV}$$

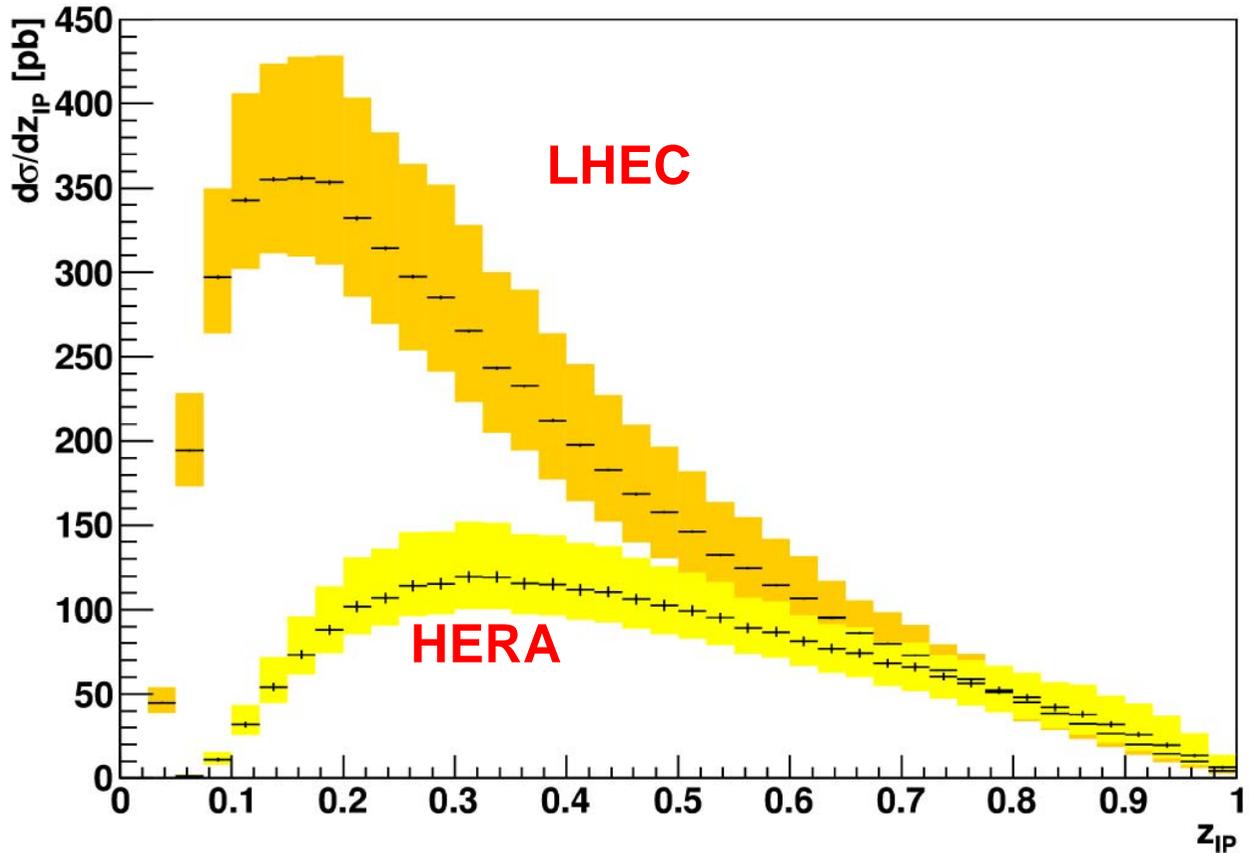
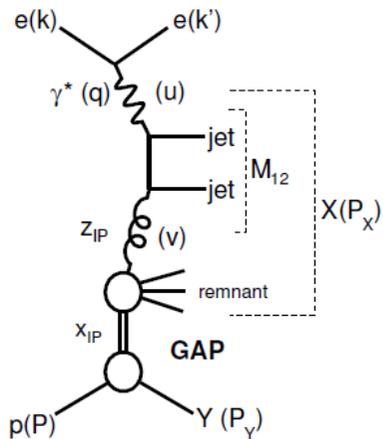
$$E_T^{\text{jet1}} > 10 \text{ GeV}$$

$$E_T^{\text{jet2}} > 6.5 \text{ GeV}$$

$$-3 < \eta^{\text{jets}} < 3$$

# Diffraction dijet production in DIS

At LHeC cross-section dominates for small  $z_{IP}$ , where gluon part of DPDF dominates (weakly constrained from inclusive measurement)



analysis by Radek Žlebčík

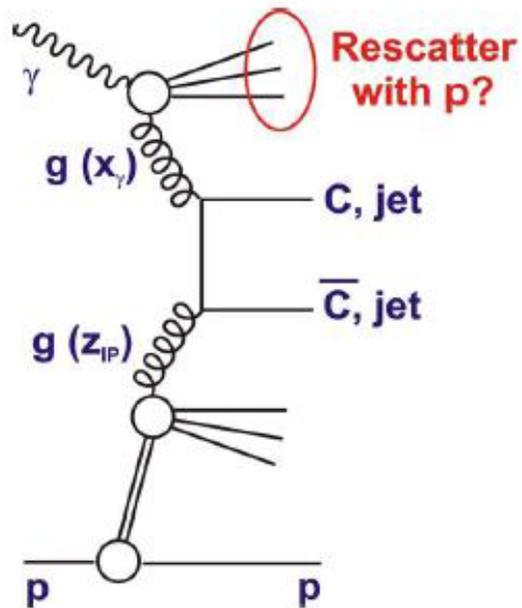
At LHeC smaller  $z_{IP}$  is accessed

$z_{IP} \sim 0.07$  at HERA ;

$z_{IP} \sim 0.02$  at LHeC

$$z_{IP}^{\min} \simeq \frac{\left( E_T^{\text{jet1}(\min)} + E_T^{\text{jet1}(\min)} \right)^2}{x_{IP}^{\max} y^{\max} s}$$

# Diffractive dijet production in photoproduction



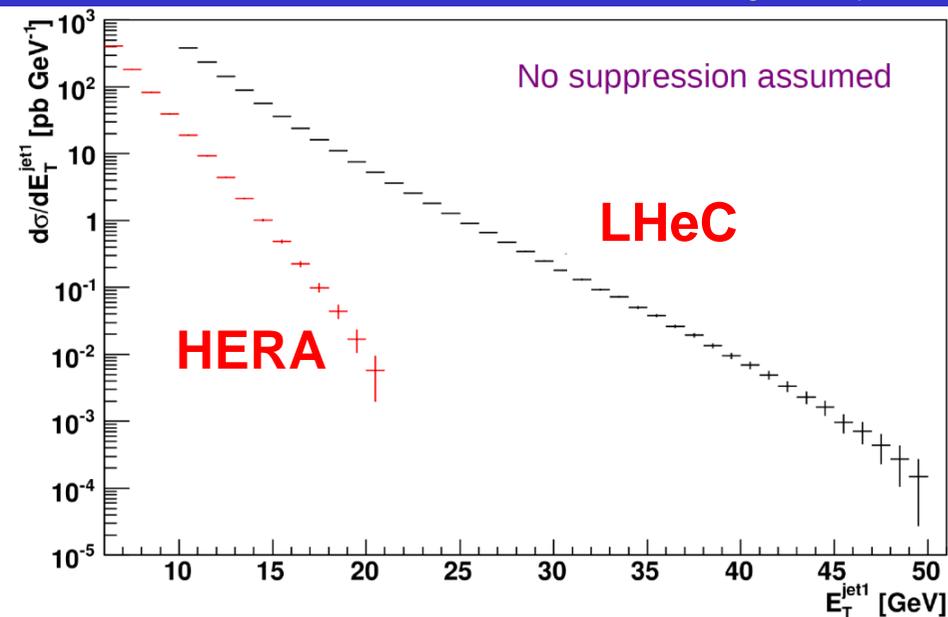
- Factorization in diffractive dijet photoproduction has been studied at HERA  
→ controversial results, no clear conclusion

3 independent measurements by H1 obtained suppression factor  
 $S^2 = \sigma(\text{NLO}) / \sigma(\text{data}) \sim 0.5-0.7$  (with large theoretical uncertainties),  
ZEUS measurement consistent with  $S^2 \sim 1$

- Theoretically predicted (e.g. KKMR group) dependence of  $S^2$  on the fraction of photon's momentum in hard subprocess,  $x_\gamma$ , not observed neither by H1 nor ZEUS.

- LHeC can clarify the issue with factorisation, survival probability

# Diffractive dijet production in photoproduction



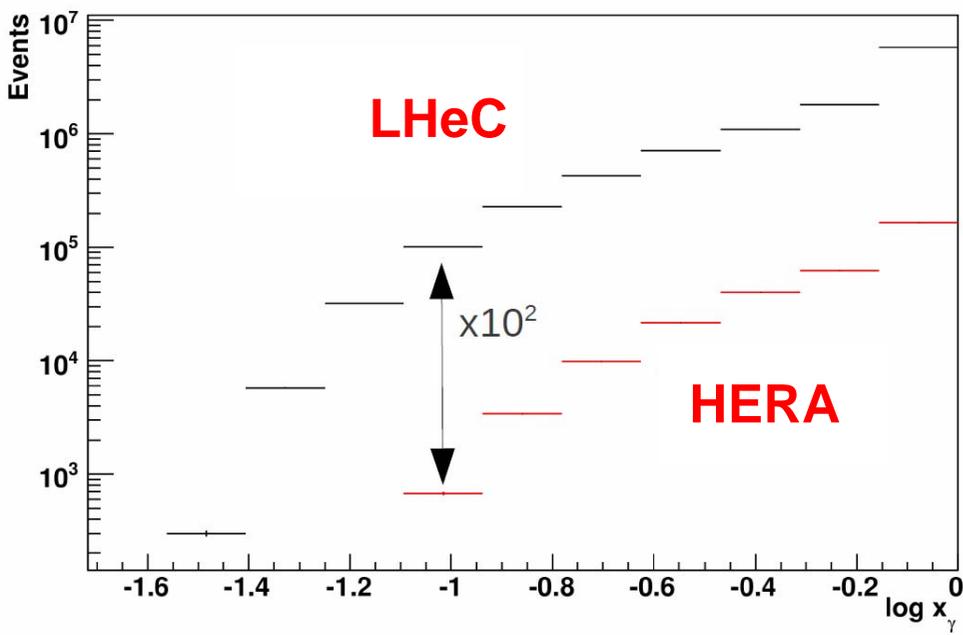
920 + 27.5 HERA (400 pb<sup>-1</sup>)

$Q^2 < 2 \text{ GeV}^2 \wedge 0.2 < y < 0.8$   
 $x_{IP} < 0.03 \wedge |t| < 1 \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_Y < 1.6 \text{ GeV}$   
 $E_T^{\text{jet1}} > 6 \text{ GeV}$   
 $E_T^{\text{jet2}} > 4 \text{ GeV}$   
 $-1 < \eta^{\text{jets}} < 2$

7000 + 60 LHeC (10 fb<sup>-1</sup>)

$Q^2 < 2 \text{ GeV}^2 \wedge 0.2 < y < 0.8$   
 $x_{IP} < 0.01 \wedge |t| < 1 \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_Y < 1.6 \text{ GeV}$   
 $E_T^{\text{jet1}} > 10 \text{ GeV}$   
 $E_T^{\text{jet2}} > 6.5 \text{ GeV}$   
 $-3 < \eta^{\text{jets}} < 3$

11

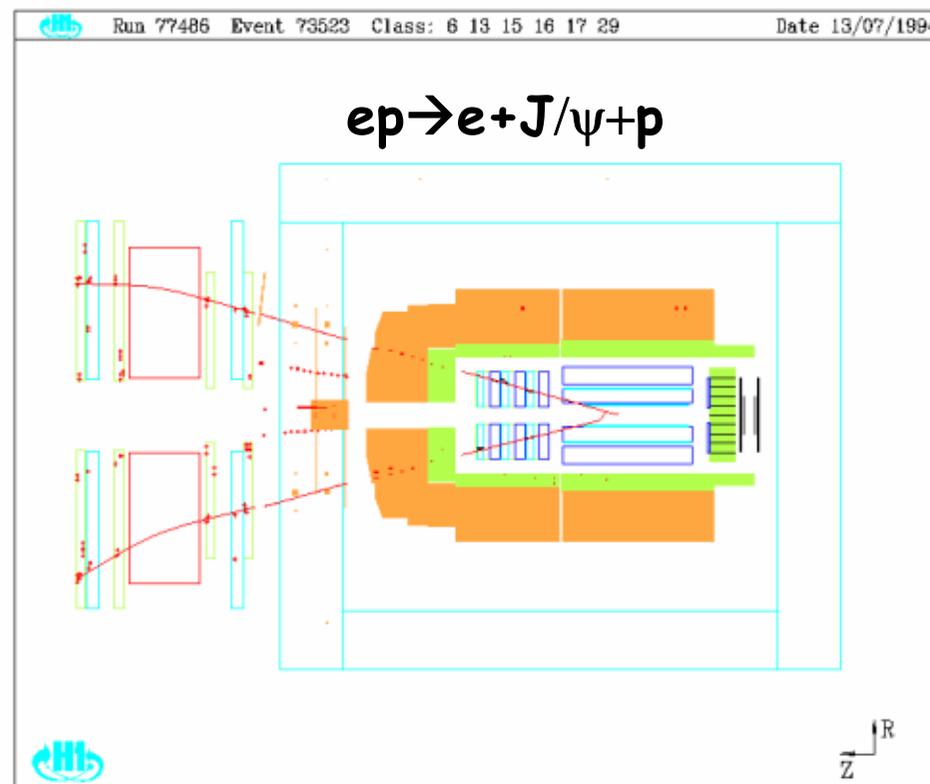
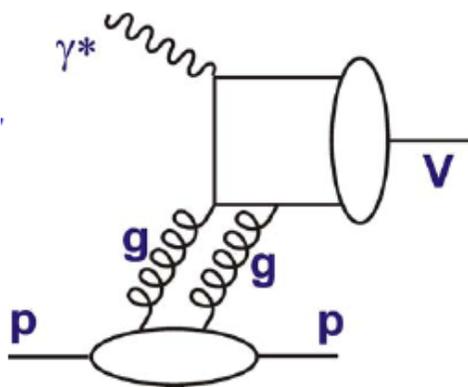


- Higher  $E_T$  of jets - smaller scale uncertainties in NLO QCD calc.
- Access to lower values of  $x_{IP}$  and  $x_\gamma$  than at HERA

$E_T^{\text{jet}} \sim 17 \text{ GeV}$  at HERA ;  
 $E_T^{\text{jet}} \sim 42 \text{ GeV}$  at LHeC

$X_\gamma \sim 0.09$  at HERA;  
 $X_\gamma \sim 0.03$  at LHeC

# Exclusive Vector Mesons production ( $ep \rightarrow e+VM+p$ )

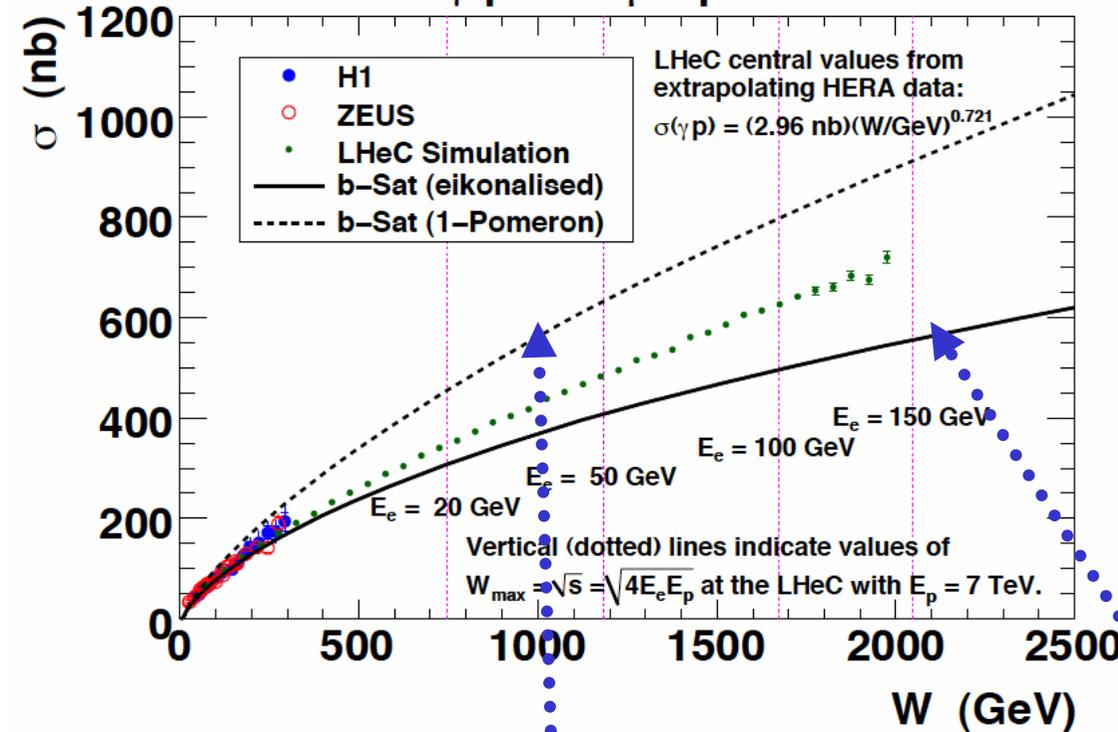


- Clean experimental signature

- Sensitivity to low x gluon up to  $x_g \sim 6 \cdot 10^{-6}$  at  $Q^2 \sim 3 \text{ GeV}^2$

# Elastic $J/\psi$ production

$$\gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi + p$$



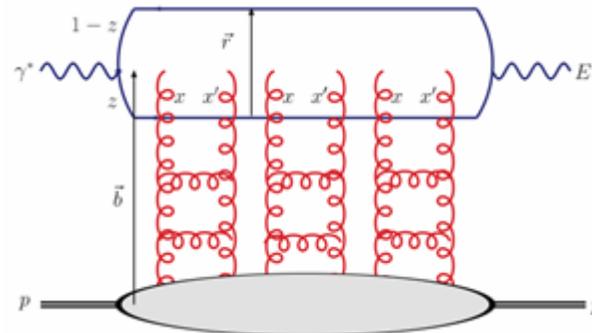
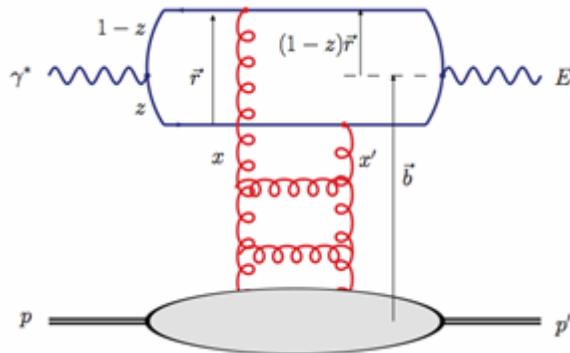
Simulated data from extrapolated fit to HERA data

- Elastic  $J/\psi$  production sensitive to saturation effects

**b-Sat** dipole model eikonalised  
 - with saturation,  
**1-Pomeron** - without saturation

LHeC can distinguish between the different scenarios

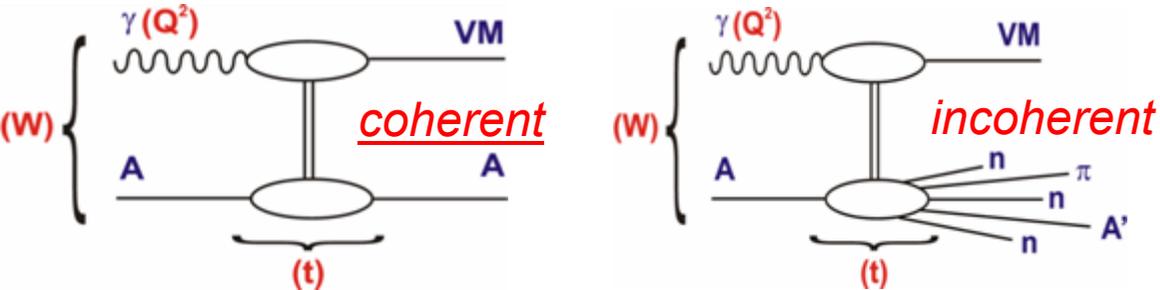
Linear,  
sensitivity  
to  $(xg)^2$



Non-linear,  
saturation

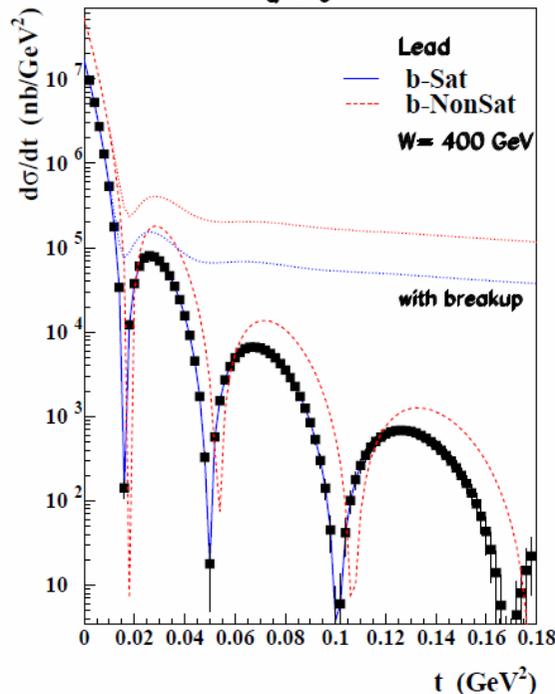
# Elastic VM production off nuclei

- Directly sensitive to gluon in nucleus;
- $t$ -differential measurements give gluon transverse mapping of the hadron/nucleus

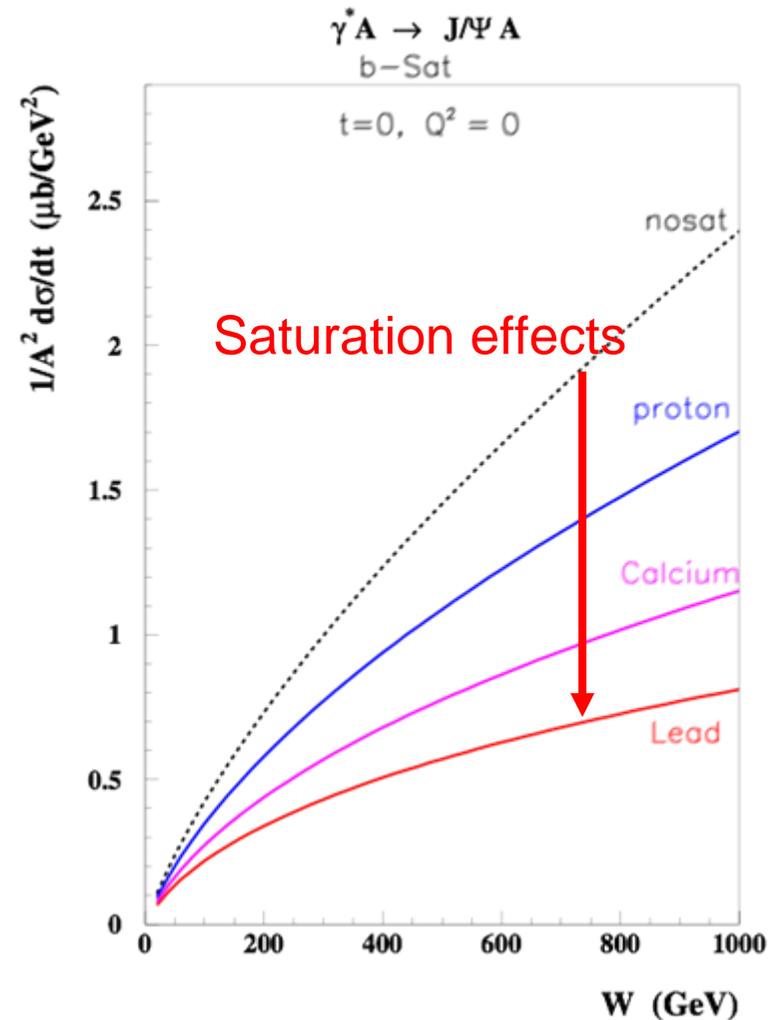


$$\gamma^* A \rightarrow J/\Psi A$$

$$Q^2 = 0$$

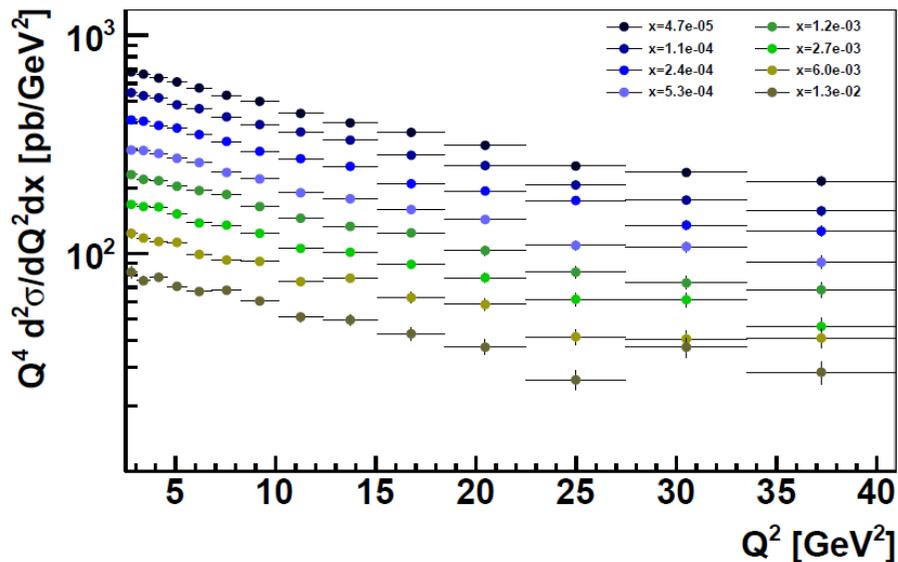
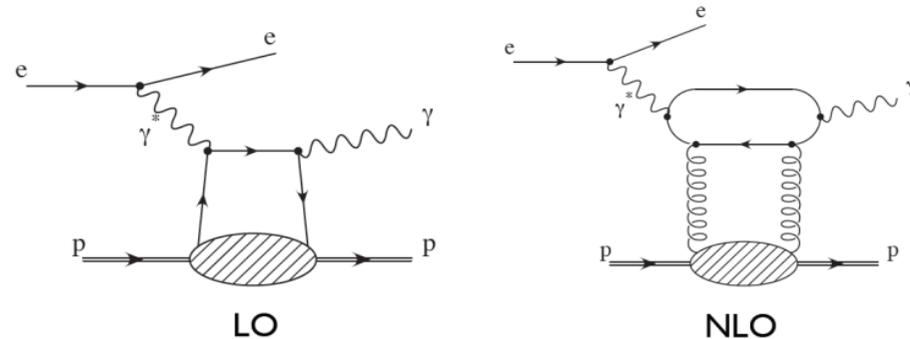


Challenging experimental problem: resolving the difference between models requires good separation of coherent and nuclear break-up

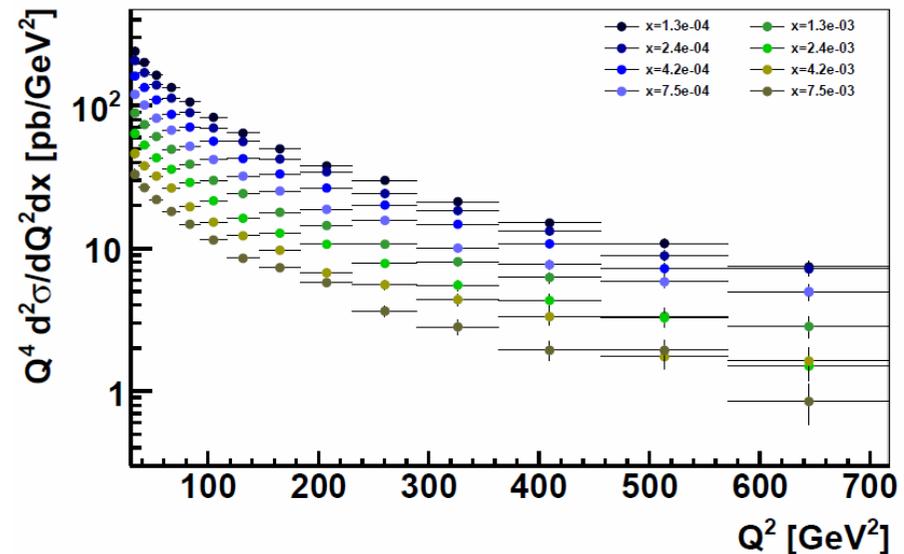


# Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering $ep \rightarrow eyp$

- Exclusive processes give access to Generalized Parton Densities
- DVCS sensitive to the singlet quark GPDs
- Sensitive to dynamics / non-linear effects
- No complications due to meson wave function



$L = 1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$   $\theta = 1^\circ$   $P_T^\gamma = 2 \text{ GeV}$   
 $2.5 < Q^2 < 40 \text{ GeV}^2$

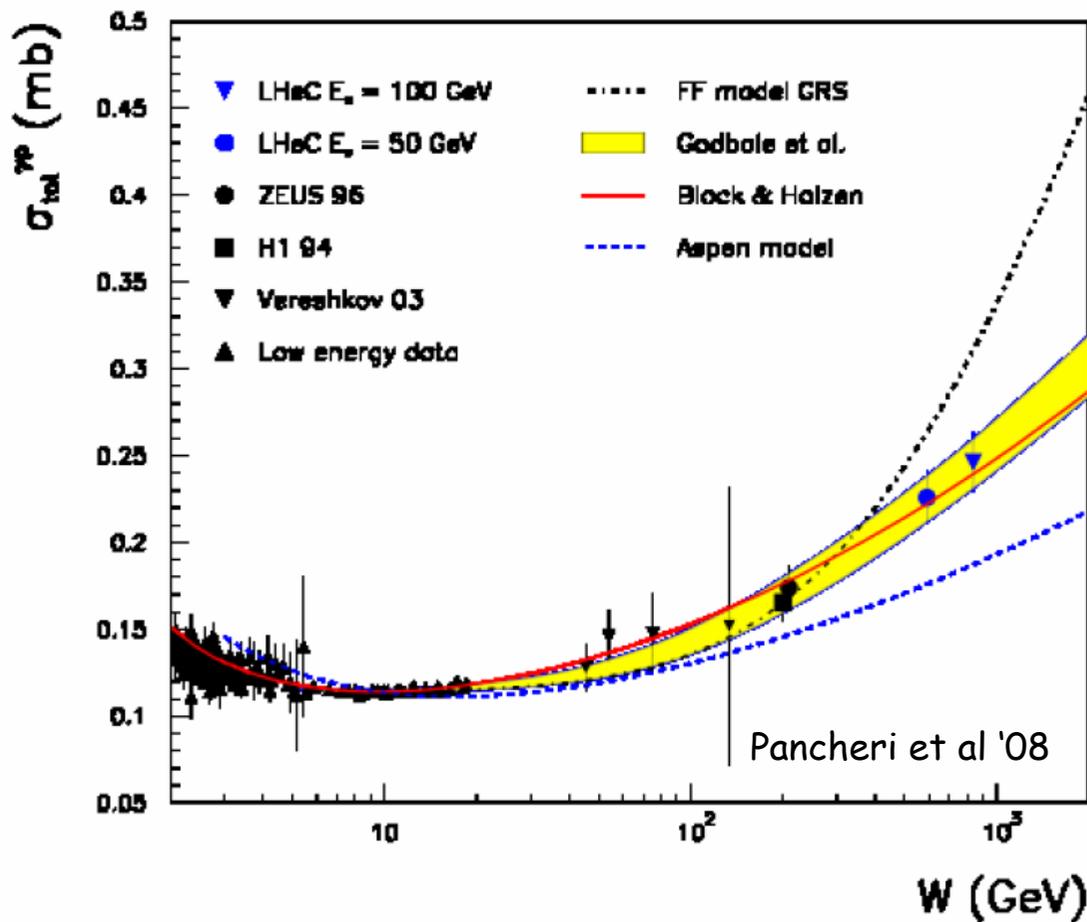


$L = 100 \text{ fb}^{-1}$   $\theta = 10^\circ$   $P_T^\gamma = 5 \text{ GeV}$   
 $50 < Q^2 < 500 \text{ GeV}^2$

# Total photoproduction cross section

Small angle electron detector 62 m far from the interaction point:  
 $Q^2 < 0.01 \text{ GeV}^2, \gamma \sim 0.3 \Rightarrow W \sim 650 \div 950 \text{ GeV}$

- Substantial enlarging of the lever arm in  $W$



# Summary

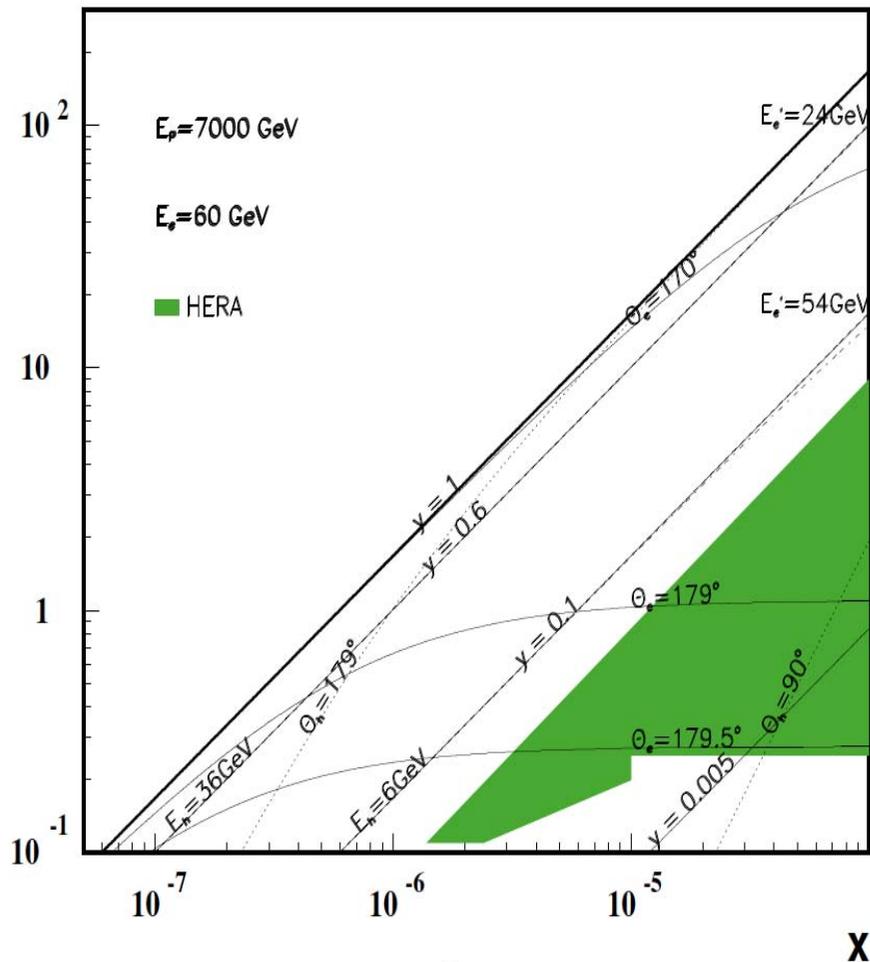
- the LHeC represents a natural extension to HERA and LHC
- unprecedented access to small  $x$  in proton and nuclei
- novel sensitivity to physics beyond standard pQCD
  - access to regime of saturation/ non-linear dynamics
- high-precision tests of collinear factorisation and determination of PDFs
- diffraction: access to high masses of diffractive system  $M_x$ , larger scales,  $E_{\text{+}}^{\text{jets}}$ 
  - possibility for detailed studies of Charged Current diffractive interaction, factorisation in diffractive photoproduction, etc.
- possibility to study diffractive DIS on nuclear target
- and a lot more...

LHeC CDR, arXiv:2306.2913, 1211.4831, 1211.5102  
<http://cern.ch/lhec>

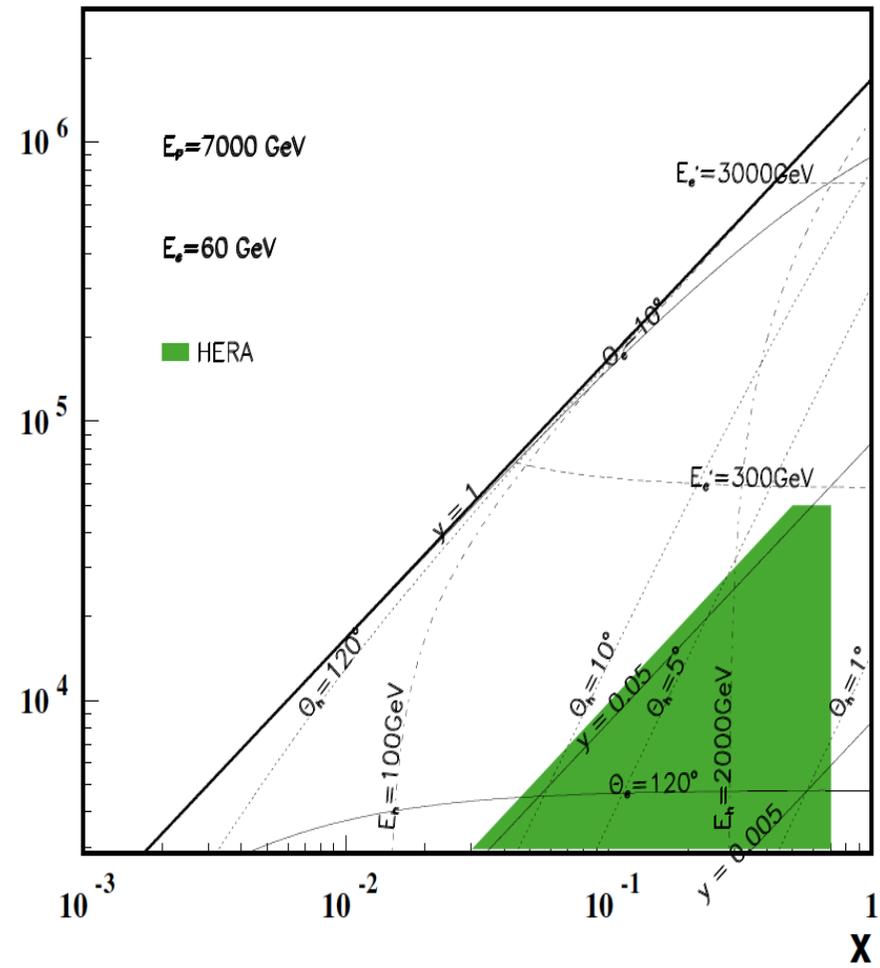


# Kinematics

LHeC - Low x Kinematics

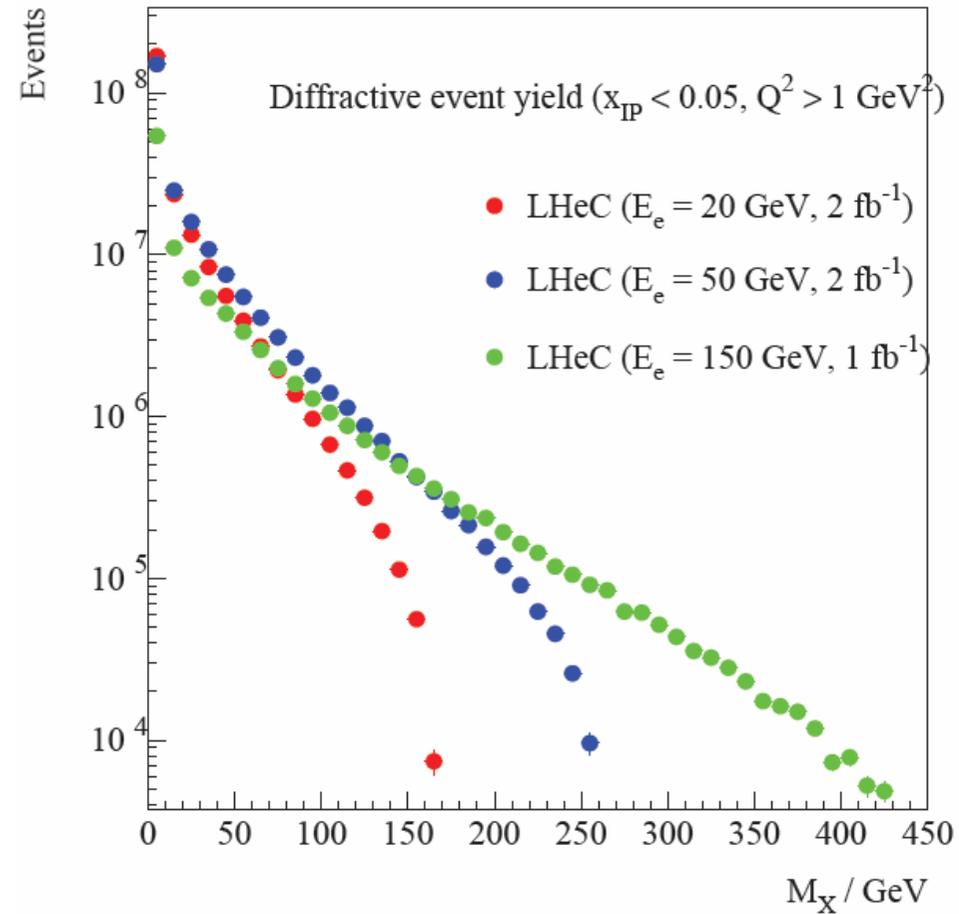


LHeC - High  $Q^2$  Kinematics



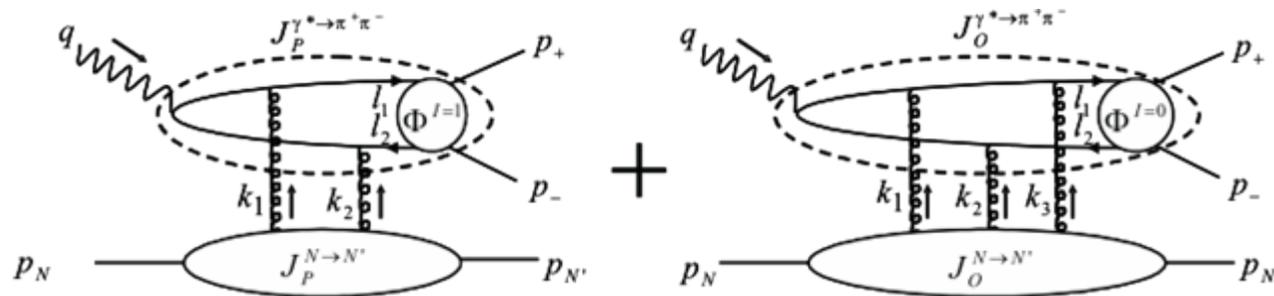
# Diffraction and low $x$

- At LHeC,  $M_X$  up to hundreds of GeV can be produced with low  $x_{IP}$
- New diffractive channels ...beauty, W/Z
- Measure exclusively produced new/exotic 1-- states (odderon?)
- Diffractive charged currents
- Dijets in DIS and Photoproduction
- Elastic  $J/\psi$  photoproduction
- Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering



# Odderon

- **Odderon** (C-odd exchange contributing to particle-antiparticle difference in cross section) searched in  $\gamma^{(*)}p \rightarrow Cp$ , where  $C = \pi^0, \eta, \eta', \eta_c \dots$  or through O-P interferences



$$A(Q^2, t, m_{2\pi}^2) = \frac{\int \cos \theta d\sigma(W^2, Q^2, t, m_{2\pi}^2, \theta)}{\int d\sigma(W^2, Q^2, t, m_{2\pi}^2, \theta)} = \frac{\int_{-1}^1 \cos \theta d \cos \theta 2 \operatorname{Re} \left[ \mathcal{M}_P^{\gamma^* L} (\mathcal{M}_O^{\gamma^* L})^* \right]}{\int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta \left[ |\mathcal{M}_P^{\gamma^* L}|^2 + |\mathcal{M}_O^{\gamma^* L}|^2 \right]}$$

Expect sizable charge asymmetry

